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AMERICA AND EUROPE.

THERE is a sameness about American news—at least, about the military portion, the most important of all—which must be rather distressing to the general reader. Four times the North has made a great attack on the South, and four times the attack has failed. How often these movements and counter-movements are to be repeated it is impossible to say; but people are getting accustomed to them, and already look upon

the one as the natural and inevitable consequence of the other. The foreign papers are now taking up the opinion which, during the last few months, has been adopted more widely every day in England—that reconciliation between North and South is impossible, and that the sooner they part the better it will be for both. Such a thought, when expressed by Englishmen alone, was looked upon simply as the offspring of a malicious wish; but we have learned, from the

recently-published diplomatic correspondence on American affairs, that it has been entertained for some time past not only by "the governing classes" in England, but also by the best-informed politicians of France and Russia. Even Prince Gortschakoff, the Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs, in spite of the deep affection he professes for democratic America, is convinced that the struggle to maintain the unity of the Republic is a hopeless one. We knew long since that the



GAROTTERS LYING IN WAIT: SCENE, A LONDON SQUARE.

Emperor Napoleon was of that way of thinking, and the difficulty now would be to find any eminent man in England or abroad who persists in a contrary belief.

A great deal of amusement has been caused by the American diplomatic correspondence, together with some surprise that statements of a half confidential nature should so readily have been made public by the American Government. It is understood that foreign Ministers object very much to our bluebooks, and complain that they can never make an important communication or suggestion to an English Ambassador abroad, and at the same time feel sure that it will not be printed immediately afterwards for the edification of the British public and of the diplomatic world all over Europe. Nevertheless, a certain discretion is always observed in those matters by the British Government, and when despatches are moved for in Parliament the motion is never pressed if the Foreign Minister declares that it cannot be agreed to without injury to the public service.

In America all foreign political correspondence seems to be reprinted forthwith as a matter of course, and doubtless the only reason why no great inconvenience and no great scandal have yet been caused by this practice is that hitherto America has had so few important questions to discuss with the Great Powers of the world. In England a certain class of politicians maintain that Parliament does not exercise enough supervision over foreign affairs. To remedy this alleged grievance (which, if a grievance at all, is at least one that Parliament and the country in general do not care to protest against) several private Committees of Foreign Affairs have been established at Sheffield, Dundee, and we do not know how many other cities in Great Britain, all of which act in unison with one another and in discord with the Government, and maintain as a primary article of faith that there should be no such thing as secret diplomacy. This amounts to saying that there should be no such thing as diplomacy at all—a proposition in favour of which, as of all other propositions, a great deal might be urged; but to say that diplomacy ought to exist, and yet that it should never under any circumstances be carried on in secret, is to put forward an absurdity. If all communications between Government and Government could be made in public, the cost of maintaining Embassies abroad would be a pure waste of money. It would be sufficient to send the despatches by post, or, better still, to print them in a newspaper and forward a copy of the journal to the Foreign Minister to whom they were addressed. In plain truth, Mr. Cassius Clay's recommendation to send men and money to stir up a revolt in Ireland, might as well have been addressed to his Government, in the first instance, through the editor of the *New York Times* as through Mr. Seward.

It may appear a very fine thing to some persons that all the sayings and doings of the Ambassadors of America should be made known so soon afterwards to the American people; but indiscretions of this kind soon come to a natural end. If everything that M. Drouyn de Lhuys, Prince Gortschakoff, and Lord Russell say to American Ministers is printed and published a month afterwards, they will all three take care not to say anything very important. Indeed, we perceive from the account of Mr. Adams's interview with Earl Russell on the subject of Mr. Gladstone's celebrated speech at Newcastle, that our own Foreign Secretary has already learned to be cautious in his dealings with American diplomats, and to give mere formal replies in place of such full explanations as might be of advantage both to America and to England, were it certain that no indiscreet use would be made of them. We are told that his Lordship, in giving his answers, did so "not without a slight indication of embarrassment," and that, in speaking of Lord Palmerston's views, he "intimated as guardedly as possible," &c.

One of the most curious passages in Mr. Adams's correspondence is that in which he naively states that Baron Brunnow took him aside to express his belief that the English Government really meant to adhere to the policy they had proclaimed, as if any one making remarks "aside" could expect that they would be published a few weeks afterwards for the benefit of the whole world. It is, of course, possible Baron Brunnow may have known that his observation would be published, and that he made it "to serve some private end;" but in either case Mr. Adams should have said nothing about it. The most remarkable thing, however, about the American diplomatic correspondence, as a whole, is that it shows precisely what the diplomats of the United States desired it should not show—that in Paris, St. Petersburg, and London the chief political men are all convinced of the utter impossibility of ever putting North and South together again.

THE GAROTTER.

In the field of La Pante, in the Havannah, on the 1st of September, 1851, General Lopez was executed by order of the Spanish Government, who had captured him after hunting him almost to death with bloodhounds. The Spanish mode of execution, by means of an instrument called the *garrotta*—a strap fastened to the back of a heavy chair, in which the victim is seated to be strangled—was rather fully described in the newspapers, as the death of General Lopez was at that time a subject of the deepest interest. This was probably the first occasion on which the British public had heard of the *garrotta*, and so great was the fascination of horror implied by the mode of death so described that people took the earliest opportunity of adopting the word, and the verb to "garotte" was found useful to denote a method of robbery which arose at about the same time, and of which we have, unfortunately, heard a great deal too much ever since. Although it may be doubted whether the description of the Spanish *garrotta* originated this method of robbery with strangulation, there was a remarkable coincidence between the discovery of the term and its practical adaptation. It was a word short, guttural, and expressive, well calculated indeed to become the watchword of a panic amongst the more timid of the common people, who would apply it without consideration to all robbery with violence, so that they would come, as they have come during the present excitement, to speak of being "garotted with a life-preserver."

The preliminary operations of the so-called garotters vary according to the tactics they adopt, but the original and genuine plan of proceeding is (according to an eminent authority) for three ruffians to

go out in company. These three ruffians are called, in their own slang, respectively the "front stall," the "back stall," and the "nasty man." The business of the first is to walk in front of the intended victim in order to warn his accomplices of danger ahead, the "back stall" strolls behind, frequently in the road, while the "nasty man," who is, as his name implies, the actual garotter, walks immediately behind the unsuspecting passenger. An eligible spot being reached, the "front stall" lifts his hat as a signal, the "nasty man" rapidly seizes his victim, and, suddenly flinging his right arm round him, delivers a smart blow on the forehead, which causes him to throw back his head and so leave his neck more fully exposed to the embrace of the garotter, who at once presses the wrist-bone against the "apple" of the throat, at the same time seizing the left wrist of the helpless and half-strangled passenger with his right hand, so that he may easily draw him backwards and hold him up while his accomplices rifle his pockets before he is entirely strangled. The hug, if effectually performed, has already rendered him insensible; and, after removing his hat and that of their companion (hats being awkward things for rolling about and being left as an evidence of the event), the "stalls" proceed to rifle his pockets rapidly and quietly; while their accomplice, still "keeping on the screw," only relaxes his hold when he is certain that no resistance can be offered. Should the "nasty man" find his antagonist a difficult subject, it is the duty of the front "stall" to assist him by dealing a heavy blow just below the waist. The robbery once effected, the still insensible man is laid down gently, and left either to recover of himself or to be discovered by the policeman when he reaches that part of his beat.

This is the genuine garotte robbery, against which so many precautions have been recommended, but of which, after all, there have been comparatively few examples. The popular adoption of the word garotte has led to its being applied to all robberies with violence, almost without distinction; and enterprising walking-stick makers, cutlers, and hosiery have taken advantage of the popular panic to clear out old weapons at reduced prices, to patent absurd inventions under the name of anti-garotte stocks or collars, and to make their front doors bristle with life-preservers and dagger-knives, which hang in murderous-looking bunches—a profitable crop, of which the ruffian is likely to gain the advantage.

There are two more common methods of street robbery in which the garotte hug may sometimes be used, but which do not necessarily depend upon the acquirement of a scientific method of operation. Sometimes a woman is employed, who contrives to accost the passenger and hold him in conversation for a minute, while her male accomplices get behind him, and either strike him down or seize him by the throat. This is the commonest form of robbery with violence. The next in frequency is that represented in our Engraving, where a couple of ruffians lie in wait either for a chance wayfarer, or, more frequently, for somebody with whose movements they have made themselves acquainted.

It is often the case that the "garotter" selects his victim, watches him closely, and contrives to learn whether he carries money and jewellery, and at what times and places he may be found walking in the evening. It is said that the opportunity for robbery is never forced, and that the industrious ruffian will wait patiently for the perfection of his "lay." He is himself often watched by the police, and runs the continual risk of being apprehended for lurking about with an illegal purpose; while very frequently, as in the attacks made upon men who are too intoxicated to protect themselves, there is no direct evidence against him except that of the constable who seizes him.

There has been added to the present panic an outcry against the inefficiency of the police regulations, and, no doubt, they are capable of considerable improvement; but the popular reproach that a policeman is never to be seen when he is wanted rests only on a slight foundation. It cannot really be inferred that there is no policeman within a certain distance because he is not discovered by the passenger in the street. Any one who has taken a walk with a police inspector at night must have been surprised to find ghostly-looking constables loom suddenly from the dark shadows of courts and overhanging gateways, and respond to the question asked of them by the officer. When it is known that the visit of the inspector is not made at any regular time, the popular opinion must soon (at all events under an improved police administration) be classed with many other exploded fallacies.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

M. Fould's report on the financial condition of France has been issued. There will be a financial deficit for the present year of 35,000,000*fr.*, which is caused by the expenses attendant on the Mexican expedition, which is estimated at 83,000,000*fr.* for 1862. Alluding to 1863, M. Fould calculates on a surplus of 110,000,000*fr.*, which he estimates will meet the expenses for that year of the Mexican expedition, as well as any unforeseen expenses. The Budget of 1864 will be presented with a diminution of four millions, and M. Fould states that were it not for the extraordinary expenses which weigh upon 1862 and 1863 it would have been possible to re-enter on a normal situation at the beginning of 1864, but which desirable result was only adjourned.

SPAIN.

On Monday Marshal O'Donnell addressed the Spanish Senate on the Mexican expedition. He explained the nature and object of the convention under which the three Powers went to Mexico, and asserted that Spain had never thought of meddling in the internal affairs of that country. The Plenipotentiaries of the other Powers, he said, found the claims of France excessive, and the re-embarkation of the Spanish troops became indispensable. He defended General Prim against the charge of having caused the rupture, which he attributed to Almonte, who, he said, had deceived France. The address to the Throne was then adopted by 95 against 23 votes.

ITALY.

General La Marmora, it is said, is to be removed from the post he now occupies in Naples, and is to be appointed Ambassador to Paris; while Ricasoli has been offered—and, it is believed, accepted—the position of Prefect of the Southern Province, the civil and military power to be deposited in separate hands. Every effort is being made to suppress brigandage and to root out the elements from which the bands are recruited.

RUSSIA AND POLAND.

Prince Gortschakoff is said to have addressed to Denmark, on behalf of Russia, a despatch, in which he strongly backs up Earl Russell's views, and recommends the Danish Government to accept our Foreign Minister's scheme of organisation as the only method of settling the Schleswig-Holstein question.

A Stettin newspaper publishes a statement to the effect that a great conspiracy in Poland has just been discovered by the Russian Government. The ramifications of the conspiracy are said to extend even into Prussia, and the object of it was a rising in January next. Various arrests, it is stated, have been made.

GREECE.

Accounts from Athens mention that Mr. Elliot had officially notified to the Greek Government that England would propose to the parties who signed the Treaty of 1815 the cession of the Ionian Islands to Greece provided she chose a King acceptable to Queen Victoria. It is stated that on the 11th ult. the proposal for the cession was made to all the Powers interested. Two of the Great Powers—believed to be Austria and Prussia—are alleged to have notified their opposition to the cession.

A rumour has been in circulation at Athens to the effect that several influential parties in Athens had applied to the French Minister there as to the views France was likely to entertain relative to the candidature of the Duc d'Aumale for the throne of Greece, to which a reply was given that France would neither support nor oppose it.

The Greek journals publish the following note, addressed collectively, on Dec. 13, to the Provisional Government by the Ministers of Great Britain, France, and Russia:—

Great Britain, France, and Russia declare themselves bound by the agreement that no member of the Imperial and Royal families reigning over the three protective States can accept or wear the crown of Greece.

Consequently neither his Royal Highness Prince Alfred, member of the Royal family of England, nor his Imperial Highness Prince Romanoffsky, Duke of Leuchtenberg, member of the Imperial family of Russia, can accept the crown of Greece if offered to them by the Greek people.

CHINA.

From China we have accounts of the capture of Fung-Wah and Kahding, two towns in the neighbourhood of Ningpo, held by the rebels. They were stormed with great gallantry by the British and French, and handed over to the Imperialists. The rebels keep a respectful distance from Shanghai, but it was reported that they intended to attack Hankow, to which they had approached within twenty-five miles, but retired on the approach of the Imperial troops. Some Chinese soldiers drilled by Europeans had deserted to the rebels in consequence of not receiving their pay.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

GENERAL NEWS.

In addition to the defeat at Fredericksburg, the details of which will be found below, the other war news is also discouraging for the Federals. The two expeditions to the Mississippi had failed, and two of the ships of Banks's expedition (which is now supposed to be bound for the Mexican Gulf) had been disabled. The Confederates had made another dash into Maryland, and retired after inflicting much damage. The Confederates attacked Plymouth, North Carolina, on the 9th ult., drove the Federals out of the town, and damaged a Federal gun-boat which was lying off the town. The Confederate General Evans officially reports that the Federals, with 15,000 men and nine gun-boats, attacked Kingston, North Carolina, on the 14th ult., and were driven back to their gun-boats after ten hours' fighting. President Davis had been in Tennessee, was preparing some important movement on the Mississippi.

In the Congress the emancipation proclamation of the President had been indorsed by the House of Representatives by 78 votes to 51. Mr. Conway, of Kansas, had introduced a resolution virtually acknowledging the Southern Confederacy, but the only vote in favour of it was his own.

The House of Representatives had passed a resolution instructing the Committee upon Naval Affairs to consider whether letters of marque should not be issued for the capture of the Alabama.

The ship *George Griswold* was leaving at New York with grain for the distressed operatives in Lancashire, and a resolution had been introduced into Congress instructing the Committee on Foreign Affairs to inquire whether some method could not be devised of showing the sympathy of Congress with the operatives.

The Confederates had advanced their pickets in Fredericksburg to points near the banks of the Rappahannock, had increased their intrenchments in the rear of the city, and thrown up rifle-pits on the left of the city near the river. The Confederates had also sent a flag of truce to the Federals, requesting them to bury their dead. In the battle of the 13th the Federals lost 800 prisoners. The official reports state that the Federal loss in the battle at Fredericksburg amounted to 1400 killed and 8000 wounded; this is believed to be greatly under the real loss. The Confederate General Lee had officially reported his loss at 1800 killed and wounded. General Burnside had officially reported that it was a military necessity to recross the river, it being impossible to carry the enemy's works, and he regarding the repulse under existing circumstances as disastrous. No property or men were lost during the retreat. Much popular indignation prevailed, and a general feeling of strong dissatisfaction with the manner in which the Administration is conducting the war. A public meeting had been called to inform the Administration in regard to the people's sense of their misconduct of the war. The leading merchants were announced to address the meeting. The attendance was expected to be very large. The Senate had ordered inquiry to be made into the facts of the disaster at Fredericksburg. General McClellan had been sent for to Washington, but with what precise object was not known. If offered a command again, his friends assert that he would only accept it on condition of being freed from interference from Washington.

It is asserted that Mr. Seward had resigned; but no official statement has been published. General Burnside was also reported to have resigned, but that his resignation had not been accepted.

General Butler had ordered that all persons who have registered themselves as enemies to the United States can, if they desire, go within the Confederate lines and not return. They may take personal luggage only, not exceeding 50 *dols.* value. He had also ordered that no person should be allowed to land at New Orleans without taking the oath of allegiance.

GREAT BATTLE AT FREDERICKSBURG.

Another great battle, resulting in the defeat of the Federals, has taken place in America. Having crossed the Rappahannock and taken possession of Fredericksburg on the 12th ult., General Burnside, on the 13th, attacked the lines of the Confederates in the rear of that town. We extract the following particulars from the account of the battle given by a New York paper:—

THE PREPARATIONS FOR ATTACK.

The lines of the rebels, which extended in the form of a semicircle from Port Royal to a point about six miles above Fredericksburg, were strongly fortified and protected by a range of hills. "Stonewall" Jackson occupied the right wing, extending from Port Royal to Guiney's Station (a station on the Richmond and Fredericksburg Railroad); General Longstreet in the centre, extending to the telegraph road; and Generals Lee and Stuart the left, west of Massaponax Creek, while General A. P. Hill's corps acted as a reserve. Lee's reason for occupying the left was because he could be on his guard against Sigel, who threatened to outflank him by way of Culpepper. The entire rebel force was estimated at 200,000 men, and occupied a front of not less than twenty miles. The troops were for the most part veterans who had fought through all the peninsular campaign, while the officers were the ablest that the South could produce.

The disposition of the Union forces occupied the whole of Friday night and Saturday morning, and, as General Burnside was anxious to commence the attack at as early an hour as possible, there was not much chance for the troops to rest themselves. It was arranged that General Franklin's corps should cross the river two miles below the city, with the view of turning the enemy's position on Massaponax Creek, while Hooker would engage the rebels nearer the centre, and Sumner would turn their right. By this arrangement Franklin was opposed to "Stonewall" Jackson, while Hooker and Sumner attacked the centre and left of the rebels under Longstreet and Lee.

The eventful morning came, and with it a dense fog, which obscured the movements of the enemy. The balloon was sent up just before daylight, but, in consequence of the fog, no observation could be had. However, the disposition of the Union forces had been made, and General Burnside determined to commence operations, fog or no fog.

THE LEFT.

Franklin moved his column, consisting of the first and sixth corps, just before sunrise, his right resting on the outskirts of the city, his centre advanced a mile or so from the river, and his left resting on the Rappahannock about three miles below. Skirmishing commenced a few minutes after daylight on the extreme left. A rebel battery opened on our troops, and the fire became so annoying that the 9th Regiment New York State Militia were ordered to charge and take the cannon at the point of the bayonet. The order was obeyed with alacrity, but after a fierce struggle the charging party were compelled to fall back. At this critical moment General Tyler, perceiving the disorder into which the 9th New York were thrown, came to their aid with a brigade. The 9th were quickly rallied, and, assisted by Tyler's brigade, another attempt was made to storm the rebel batteries, but

without success. The fight now became general on the extreme left, and another desperate effort was made to capture the rebel battery by General Tyler's brigade; but the fire of the rebels was so withering in its effect that the Union troops were unable to gain any advantage. Each charge thinned the ranks at a fearful rate, and the chances of capturing that much-coveted battery appeared no better than at first. By noon the whole of Franklin's corps was engaged with the enemy, and a desperate effort was made to turn his position on the Massaponax and drive him beyond the Creek. General Franklin commanded the movement in person. The rebels maintained possession of some small hills with stubbornness, but gradually fell back as the Union troops evinced a determination to go forward. During the afternoon the rebels came to a stand, and for a time assumed the offensive; but as they advanced to meet us they were bravely met and repulsed with heavy loss. At this time some 300 of Hill's command fell into our hands, and were conducted to the rear as prisoners. Still the enemy contested every foot of the ground, and it was only by dint of the hardest kind of fighting that he could be compelled to change his position.

During the heat of this engagement General Bayard was mortally wounded. He was conversing with General Franklin, when a cannon ball struck him in the hip and threw him clean out of the saddle. His leg was amputated, and the surgeons say that he cannot survive many days, and that the operation they have performed can only prolong his agony a short while.

The obstinacy with which the rebels held possession of their ground rendered General Franklin's task a very difficult one indeed. He had to cope with "Stonewall" Jackson and the veterans of Cedar Mountain, Bull Run, and Antietam—troops who understood their business thoroughly, and were not to be scared by trifles. Hence the task of turning the rebels' position on the Massaponax was no ordinary one. Still the Union commander was not discouraged; he had driven the enemy back several rods, and was determined to drive them further. Old "Stonewall" had met his match this time, and notwithstanding his troops fought with their usual bravery, they were gradually pushed southward. At sundown Franklin had succeeded in driving the enemy nearly a mile, and his troops occupied the field during the remainder of the night. The casualties on both sides were very numerous. Among those wounded were Captain Hendrickson, commanding the 9th New York State Militia, and Captain Hartt, Assistant Surgeon-General to General Tyler.

THE RIGHT.

Reynolds's corps advanced before the dense fog had lifted itself from the river-banks, and about nine o'clock the enemy's infantry were engaged. The opposing columns had fairly got to work when the rebel artillery commenced playing upon us through the fog. The shots were all aimed at random, however, and produced but little effect. Notwithstanding the view was so obscured the rebel artillery kept up the cannonade for several hours. The fire was returned by our batteries in gallant style, and for hours nothing but the deafening roar of artillery could be heard on all sides. Up to noon, when the fog cleared off and the balloonists were enabled to get a glance at the enemy's works, the fight was an artillery one, and productive of no very important result on either side. As soon as the sunshine showed itself, however, the infantry were brought into play, and the work commenced in real earnest. Generals Mead and Gibbon's divisions encountered the right of General A. P. Hill's command and Longstreet's veterans.

The fight raged furiously during the entire day, and our troops suffered terribly from the enemy's artillery. The enemy were posted behind hills in great strength, and at one time it seemed impossible to dislodge them. About noon General Gibbon was relieved by General Doubleday's command. General Mead, who was fighting against superior odds, was also reinforced by General Stoneman's command, which had the effect of checking the rebels and driving them back a short distance. It was in the midst of this struggle that General Gibbon was wounded and partially disabled. He kept the field, however, during the remainder of the day.

During the afternoon General Newton's division was moved up to the left of the centre, when the firing, which had ceased in that part of the field, broke out again with redoubled fury. Our troops were here exposed to a plunging fire from the enemy's artillery, which was posted on the neighbouring hills, and for a short time the Union soldiers were opposed to a destructive fire. Our artillery returned the fire with deadly effect. The action on the right commenced about ten o'clock, and raged furiously all day long. The enemy occupied the woods and hills in the rear of the city, and in point of advantage the odds were decidedly in their favour. It soon became evident that the first ridge of the hills, on which the enemy were posted behind earthworks, could not be carried except at the point of the bayonet, and accordingly General Sumner ordered French's division to charge upon the batteries, General Howard's division acting as a support. Steadily the column marched across the plain, and never faltered until they were within a dozen yards of the ridge, when suddenly they were met by a galling fire from the rebel infantry, who were posted behind a stone wall. For a few moments the head of the column exhibited some confusion, but, quickly forming into line, they retired to a ravine within musket shot of the enemy. Here the Union troops were reinforced by a fresh body of infantry, who advanced to the assistance of their comrades, notwithstanding large gaps were made in their ranks at every step. The reinforcements having arrived, and the line of assault being again formed, the order "Double quick, with fixed bayonets!" was given, and once more the column advanced to dislodge the rebel artillery.

From the moment the storming party left the ravine up to the time they reached the foot of the hills they were exposed to the hottest fire of the enemy. The concentrated fire of Lee's artillery and infantry rained upon their devoted heads. No troops, however disciplined and brave, could withstand the shock; and, after suffering terribly, our soldiers were thrown into disorder and brought to a sudden halt. At this juncture the centre of the column gave way and fled in dismay, but they were afterwards rallied and brought back. A second and third attempt was made to dislodge the rebel artillery, but in vain; and at each attempt the ranks of the storming party grew thinner and thinner. Sumner now brought all his available artillery into play, hoping to shell the rebels out; and from that time until dark the roar of cannon was incessant. The rebels, who had been driven back a short distance during the day, returned to their original position when night came, so that we were unable to remove our dead. Several attempts were made to remove the bodies during the night, but the enemy opened upon us with their infantry and compelled us to desist. All our wounded were removed, however, and such of the dead as were not within musket range of the rebels were buried.

THE CENTRE.

The third and fifth army corps, under General Hooker, formed the centre, and co-operated with Sumner's column during the battle. General Burnside was anxious that a movement should be made as early as possible, and accordingly at the break of day the troops commenced to move towards the enemy's earthworks. Skirmishing commenced shortly after daylight, and in a short time afterwards the rebel artillery commenced playing upon us through the fog. The firing was so inaccurate, however, that our troops paid but little attention to it, and kept pressing on. By-and-by our artillery responded, and for hours a cannonade was kept up on both sides. The enemy's position was one of exceeding strength, and appeared to be invulnerable to our artillery. About noon the infantry, who had been waiting for the fog to clear off, advanced for the purpose of storming the enemy's position on the hill. The troops marched steadily up to within musket-shot of the batteries; but a murderous fire from the rebel riflemen, added to the fury of the cannonade, compelled our men to fall back with heavy loss. The attempt to carry the rebel batteries was repeated again in the afternoon, and the attacking party, strongly reinforced, started on the "double-quick;" but the enemy, who were also heavily reinforced, proved too much for us. All along the line the battle raged with unusual fierceness, and when night came it was hard to say who were the victors. No correct estimate can be formed of the loss on the Federal side; but it is variously stated at from 10,000 to 20,000 in killed, wounded, and

missing. The firing of musketry ceased about half-past five o'clock; but the rebels continued to cannonade the city until long after dark.

THE RESULT.

Thus closed the night of the 13th. At all points the Federals had been checked, having only succeeded in gaining about half a mile of ground on the left, while in several places the Confederates had obtained possession of the position from which the Federals made the attack in the morning.

The tone of the despatches sent from General Burnside's headquarters at the close of the engagement show very clearly that he had no conception of the terrible loss which he had sustained, for he spoke with confidence of renewing the attack the next day. The reports of the different corps and division commanders showed the utter impossibility of attempting this, and during Sunday the 14th and Monday the 15th the two armies lay facing one another. Monday night was windy, cloudy, and indicative of a storm, and a Federal council of war hastily held determined that, while the manoeuvre was a possibility, the forces must be transferred to the north bank of the Rappahannock. Between dark and daylight the movements were accomplished. Most of the wounded are reported to have been brought across the river; but many of them must have fallen into the hands of the Confederates. In most cases the dead were left upon the field.

THE NEW YORK PRESS ON THE DISASTER.

Most of the journals severely blame Mr. Secretary Stanton and General Halleck for the unfortunate issue of this last attempt to reach the Confederate capital. A "peremptory order" to attack General Lee's lines was, it is said, sent to General Burnside from Washington; and, in obedience to this command, though against his own judgment, the Federal leader made the attempt which has again brought signal defeat upon the Union arms. As a specimen of the tone adopted by the newspapers, we give the following, which appears under the heading of "An Appeal to the President," in the *New York World*:

The most splendid army of the world, with Generals as gallant as ever led and soldiers as brave as ever marched to victory, has met the most frightful disaster of the war. By General Halleck's orders the army of the Rappahannock was marched up against the impregnable batteries of the Fredericksburg heights—brigade after brigade, division after division, one after another decimated, thousands upon thousands slaughtered, from day-break to sunset—until its ruin was complete, until weligned 20,000 brave and noble souls wet the Virginia hillsides with their blood. The blanching courage, the duntless intrepidity, of our magnificent array were never more sublimely displayed. The blundering strategy, the incompetent generalship, which hurried them to a fruitless doom never branded itself so conspicuously as indiscriminate slaughter and murder by wholesale. Again have you, Abraham Lincoln, by the hands of Henry W. Halleck and Edwin M. Stanton, sent death to thousands upon thousands of our brothers and friends, again desolation and anguish to the homes and hearts of the people—death that gives no life to the perishing nation, and sorrow which no patriotism can console, or the consciousness of a needful though costly self-sacrifice assuage. By the banks of the Rappahannock there was slaughter which was fruitless, and by 20,000 freemen's tears to-day are shed which God alone can wipe away. We have no words of anger in an hour like this. The sense of sorrow for the nation and her slaughtered sons cools even the hot wrath which must yet break forth upon the heads of those whose selfishness, whose incompetency, whose recklessness, and whose ambition have brought our grief upon us. By that sorrow in which there is not a family in all the cities and villages of the North but shares; by that love for our country which has not faltered among us, and does not falter in her darkest hour; by the hopes which must yet linger in the bosom of the chief magistrate to recover the confidence of his people, and to transmit an honoured name to his and their posterity; by the desire which in his serious moments must yet move him to win in times as trying as those in which Washington won the title of the father of his country the equal title of its saviour; by the unutterable contempt of the men of his own time and the blasting scorn of history which will surely be wreaked upon him if he fails in aught which he may fairly do to save the Republic; by the glory which may yet await and by the doom which threatens her—by these and every other consideration which the breaking hearts or the anxious minds of 20,000,000 of people can conceive or frame, we beseech the President to cut loose now and finally from his past and fatal policy, and from the men of whom it is enough to say that the Union and the Constitution might have been saved, but that, with the resources of a continent and the arms of 20,000,000 of united freemen at their backs, they have not saved it. We beseech him to call to his Cabinet and aid the ablest, bravest, and best men of the nation; and so, if our cause is not yet past all remedy, by their help and the favour of a just God, to make one final effort for the salvation of the Republic which fruitless millions have been spent for, and for which more than 100,000 lives have been yielded up in vain.

IRELAND.

REAL KINDNESS.—Mr. Robert Hunt, High Sheriff of the city of Limerick, visited the city gaol on the 23rd ult., and from his private purse paid off the debts of all the pauper debtors, who were then liberated, in order to enjoy the Christmas with their families; and, in addition, he placed at the disposal of the Governor of the prison a sum of money to assist the outgoing debtors in enjoying their Christmas.

APPREHENSION FOR THE MURDER OF AN IRISH ALDERMAN.—It is stated that two men, named Minogue, one of whom has been recently in America, whence he has been brought back by the Government, have been arrested, charged with the murder of the late Alderman Sheehy, which took place about two years ago in the county of Clare. The second of the Minogues was arrested at his residence, in the same county, within the last few days.

DEATH OF MR. JUSTICE CRAMPTON.—Mr. Justice Crampton, who retired from a seat in the Court of Queen's Bench about four years ago, died on Monday night at his residence, Enniskerry, in the eighty-first year of his age. Mr. Crampton was Solicitor-General under Earl Grey's Government, and in 1836 was made a Judge in the Queen's Bench under the Government of Lord Melbourne. The learned gentleman, as may be judged from his promotion, began life as a Whig, and fought a severe but unsuccessful contest for Dublin University with the present Lord Chief Justice Lefroy and Recorder Shaw. Soon after his elevation it was understood that, subject to the restraints imposed by his judicial position, he became a Conservative. His death was caused by bronchitis.

SCOTLAND.

GLASGOW CATHEDRAL.—An excellent addition has just been made to the stained-glass windows in the nave of Glasgow Cathedral, the gift of Mr. John Finlay, of Deanston; Mr. Alexander Finlay, of Castle Toward, M.P.; and their sister, in memory of their father. The subject is the "Sacrifice of Noah." In the centre the patriarch stands behind the altar on which the victim is being consumed. His face turned upward, he seems to listen to the promise made that no such judgment as the flood should again befall mankind; his wife kneels before the altar; behind, but in shadow, are seen Ham and his wife; on each side, to the right and left, the other two sons, with their wives, in devout contemplation of the religious act. The landscape background of this window is very fine. It has an Eastern character, and the tone and colour are precisely that of an Eastern sunset. There are the hills, on one of which rests the ark of safety; beyond, the dark clouds of the deluge are running away, spanned by the sign set by the Lord upon them, and which constituted an everlasting emblem of his promise. This noble work of art is by George Fortner, author of many other windows in the same cathedral.

THE PROVINCES.

SERIOUS RAILWAY ROBBERY.—On Christmas Day a serious robbery was effected on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway. By one of the early morning trains into Yorkshire a number of cash-boxes were sent from the head offices of the company, containing the wages of the employés at the stations along the line. On the train reaching North Dean it was discovered that three of the boxes (those for Bradford, Halifax, and Wakefield), containing £1200 (chiefly in gold and silver), had been abstracted. The guard did not miss them till he reached North Dean, and it is supposed they had been taken from his van during his temporary absence at one of the previous stations.

TREASURE TROVE.—Mr. F. Ellen, auctioneer and Mayor of Andover, was engaged a day or two ago at a sale of furniture which took place at Harewood Cottage, in that town. In the course of the day a lot of old waste-paper and old books were put up for sale, and half-a-crown was bid for them. In order to obtain a higher bidding some little time was occupied, in the course of which the auctioneer happened to take up one of the books, when, to his surprise, he found something which had an unusual appearance between the leaves. He examined the paper rather closely, and then ascertained that the book contained two £5 Bank of England notes of the date of 1826, which are supposed to have been placed in the book as long ago as the year 1827, and remained there for thirty-five years without being disturbed. Mr. Ellen at once bid 3s. 6d. for the lot, bought it himself, and returned the notes to their rightful owners.

THE LATE CALAMITY AT EDMUND'S MAIN COLLIERY.—The bodies of the sixty men and boys who were the victims of the explosions at Edmund's Main continue immured in their gloomy sepulchre, and there are but faint hopes that they will be recovered for some months to come. The terrible explosion—the third and most destructive in its effect upon the mine of the series—which took place on Wednesday week and necessitated the complete

flooding of the pit, has deprived the survivors for a long time to come of the melancholy satisfaction of paying the last offices to the dead. The first explosion, it will be remembered, was caused by a fire which originated at the extreme "dip-point" of the workings, at the bottom of a long incline, and the engineers hoped that the flooding of that part would be all that was required; but the third explosion showed conclusively that the fire had been spread over a large area by the first and second, and nothing less than the complete flooding of the workings will now suffice. Water is still being poured into the mine in large quantities, and the three shafts are sealed against the admission of air. The operations exactly resemble those which were carried on after the great explosion at Lundhill, three miles from Worsborough. When the pit is full will commence the tedious and laborious operation of pumping it out, and then the restoration of the bratticing, so as to reinstate the ventilating apparatus, and then the search for the bodies of the dead.

ANOTHER FATAL COALPIT ACCIDENT.—A terrible accident occurred on Monday at a coalpit, worked by the Lilleshall Company, in Shropshire. Twelve persons—men and boys—got into a "cage" for the purpose of being lowered down the shaft in order to commence their work. They had hardly left the surface when the pin by which the chain was fixed to the cage snapped, and the whole twelve were precipitated from a height of 900ft. to the bottom, and smashed to pieces.

SIX CHILDREN WERE BURNED TO DEATH at a fire in Portland-street, Soho, on Friday week. The fire might easily have been extinguished, and the lives of the poor children saved, but for the officious interference of a person named Jennings, who, despite the remonstrances of the police, tore down the shutters of the shop where the fire originated, and, by thus admitting a current of air, caused the flames to spread so rapidly that all efforts to reach the rooms where the children were became unavailing.

ROMAN REFORMS.—Much has been said of late about certain reforms which the Pope was about to introduce in the administration of his States but, according to a late letter from Rome, these reforms are losing ground, and it is now the general opinion that the only innovation on the actual system of government to which his Holiness will be induced to consent is a slight enlargement of the municipal privileges enjoyed by his subjects. According to the law of 1851 citizens were invested with the right of electing their own municipal councillors, but they have never been allowed actually to exercise this right, as the Pope himself named the municipal councils in the first instance, and at each succeeding triennial renewal of their members confirmed the existing ones, or supplied vacancies with equally zealous Government partisans. It is now proposed to return to the elective system, with the modification, however, that the Sovereign shall nominate a third part of the council, whilst the other two-thirds shall be elected by the people. This election will naturally be somewhat biased by Government influence, and the concession altogether amounts to nothing.

NOT SO PUSHING.—An American paper states that those who go round with the contribution-box in Californian churches plead and argue the case in the pews as they proceed. The following dialogue, it is said, took place between one of these gentry and an honest-looking miner. Parson L.—"extended the box to Bill, and he slowly shook his head. 'Come, William, give something,' said the Parson. 'Can't do it,' replied Bill. 'Why not? Is not the cause a good one?' asked he. 'Yes, good enough, but I am not able to give anything,' answered Bill. 'Pooh! pooh! I know better; you must give me a better reason than that.' 'Well, I owe too much money; I must be just before I am generous, you know.' 'But, William, you owe God a larger debt than you owe any one else.' 'That's true, Parson, but he ain't pushing me like the rest of my creditors.' The argument was conclusive.

SOUTHERN HATRED OF THE YANKEES.—There are persons in England who preach that it is every man's duty, and especially the duty of writers in the press, to endeavour to assuage the bitterness of feeling now existing between the two incensed sections of the old Union, and to mitigate the animosity which has blazed into so fierce and irresistible a flame. No man who has passed ten days in the Confederate States could fail to discover how hopeless would be such an attempt. For months past the Federals have carried on this war as though their opponents were to be crushed under the iron heel of a despotism which it was not worth while to conceal or mask behind any attempts at conciliation. Plundered houses, outraged women, stolen slaves, gutted cellars, rifled libraries—these have been some of the chosen instruments by which the Federals have thought to draw back a dozen recalcitrant States into the meshes of a Union which is valueless unless representing a federation of harmonious units. Could any Englishman justify to his own conscience the attempt to make these Confederates look lovingly and forgivingly upon their ruthless and tyrannical oppressors? Could he say to the father, in presence of the dishonoured daughter, "Forget and forgive?" It is not in such an atmosphere as this that such mean-spirited advice would be for a moment tolerated.—*Letter from the South.*

ILLUSTRATIONS OF THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

MAP OF THE SEAT OF WAR.

THE Map of the Seat of War, on page 6, will enable our readers to trace the progress of late military events, and mark the course which the opposing armies have recently taken till they met face to face in the stern ranks of conflict at Fredericksburg. This chart needs no explanation; it tells its own tale, and almost every important place marked upon it has been the scene of incidents of more or less importance in the war.

FREDERICKSBURG.

THE battle of the 13th of December, 1862, has, like all great events, rendered its scene famous, and the town (or city, as it is called in America) of Fredericksburg, Virginia, will henceforth have a prominent place in the history of the Western Continent, and the future historian of the great struggle between the two divisions of the whilom American Union will have much to write of the occurrences of which that little town was the scene. He will have to tell of the approach of the Union army, under General Burnside, in accordance with arrangements made at Washington between the Commander in the field and the war officials at the capital; he will have to record the fact that when the army reached the north bank of the Rappahannock they found no pontoons, waggons, or other military appliances awaiting them, although General Halleck and his subordinates had undertaken that all should be in readiness; and he will have to ascertain who was to blame for this neglect. He will further have to state that like supineness did not characterise the councils of the Confederates; but that General Lee took advantage of the forced inaction of his opponent to fortify and strengthen the lines behind Fredericksburg in a very efficient manner; and how the town itself was yielded after rendering but a "faint quittance," and a snare thus laid into which the Federals fell. And, finally, the historian will have to tell the sad story of an attack being made upon those strong lines in a not very scientific manner, no military strategy being exhibited by the Federal leaders, but a mere effort of brute strength put forth, which miserably failed, resulting in a disastrous defeat and horrible carnage to the assailants. All this the little town of Fredericksburg has within a few weeks witnessed, and is henceforth a prominently-marked spot on the earth's surface. A few particulars concerning it, therefore, along with the View of the place which we have engraved, will be interesting. Fredericksburg is the chief town of Spottsylvania, in the county of Virginia, and is situated on the right bank of the Rappahannock River, at the head of tidewater. It is between fifty and sixty miles from Richmond by railroad, and sixty-five miles by the turnpike, in a northerly direction. The town is pleasantly situated in a fertile valley, and has advantages for commerce and manufactures. The railroad from Washington, via Aquia Creek, passes through it, and as the through trains generally stopped at Fredericksburg station for about an hour on each trip, a not inconsiderable chance trade was caused thereby in the immediate locality of the dépôt. A good canal has been constructed from the town to a point on the Rappahannock River about forty miles above, by which large quantities of wheat, flour, and tobacco were formerly received for exportation. The river affords extensive water-power, which, however, has not been much used. The hills in the neighbourhood, varying in height from 40ft. to 100ft., abound in fine granite and freestone. About thirty years since the prospect of Fredericksburg being a rapidly-rising town was very great, but it suddenly stopped in its prosperity, and after, as it were, standing still for about twenty years, it gradually retrograded in its importance. In 1840 its population numbered nearly 4000 souls, and in 1850, ten years after, it had only increased 88 persons—less than 9 each year, and being about 2 per cent in a decade, a remarkably small increase. Before the war it contained five churches, one orphan asylum, two seminaries, four newspaper-offices, and two banks. Its inhabitants, it seems, were especially remarkable for their love of literature and art, as is evidenced by the fact that when the Federals took possession nearly every house contained a good library of books and a collection of articles of virtu. Such was Fredericksburg. The correspondent of the *New York Times* reports:—"It is 'living' Fredericksburg 'no more.' A city, soulless, rent by the wrack of war, and shooting up in flames at war"

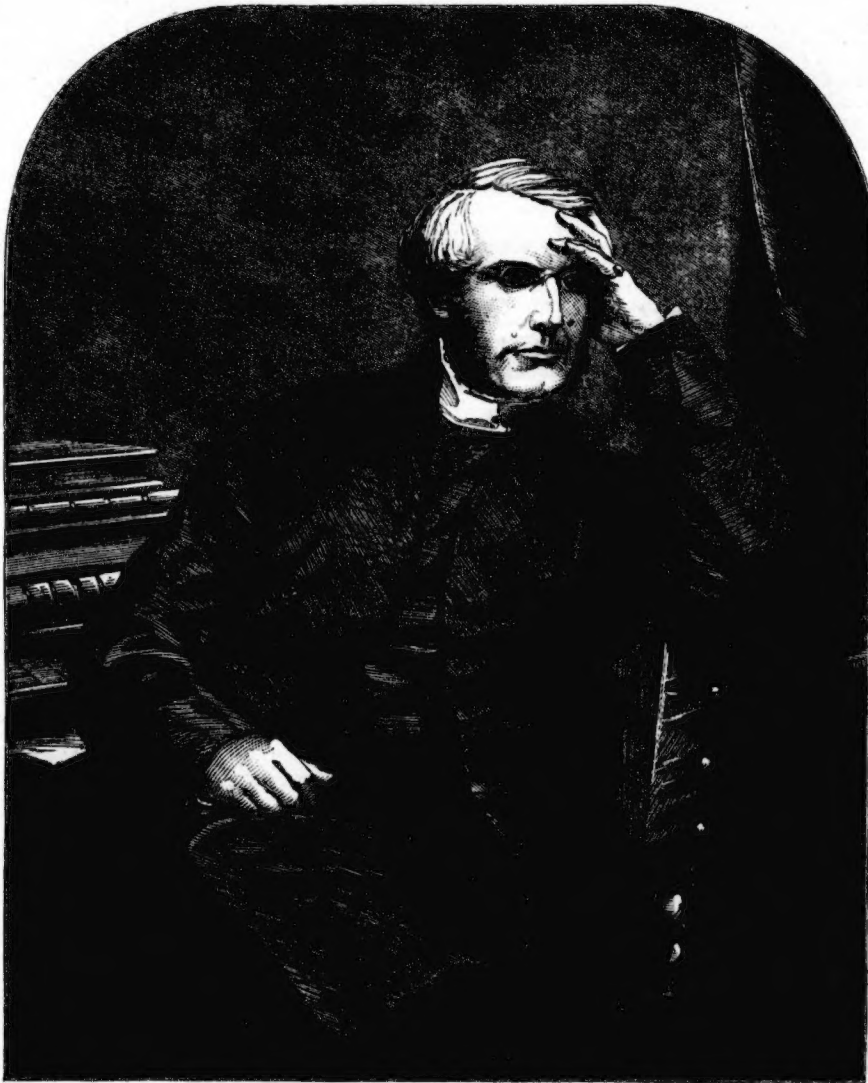
night's sky, is the pretty little antique spot by the Rappahannock, erewhile the peculiar scene of dignified ease and retirement."

Since the commencement of the war Fredericksburg has changed hands more than once. While the Potomac blockade lasted it was a chief dépôt for Confederate supplies. When McClellan advanced to Yorktown it was evacuated, and was occupied by McDowell. After the battles of the seven days before Richmond McDowell fell back and the Confederates again seized it. Burnside coming up the Potomac to the aid of Pope, in August, occupied it for a few days; when he marched to Warrenton it again fell back under the Stars and Bars; and it is now a mass of charred and shattered ruins. It has, however, obtained a name in history, if that can be any compensation for the destruction of the homes of peace, comfort, and lettered ease.

FALMOUTH, VIRGINIA.

This place has also obtained a certain notoriety in connection with the late events on the Rappahannock. It was the head-quarters of the Federal Commander-in-Chief before the battle; from it he witnessed the defeat of his army, and it has now become the place of refuge of that shattered and decimated host. It stands immediately opposite Fredericksburg, the scene of the late battle. Falmouth, it is said, has the decaying, half-sleepy look characteristic of all Southern cities. A coat of paint is evidently the covering of a century, and the doors and windows cry out loudly for the glazier and carpenter. The Rappahannock here is about 600ft. wide, and is very often fordable. A mile to the east the railroad passes from Aquia Creek to Richmond. The bridge was burnt lately, and has, of course, not been repaired.

In Falmouth, as we have said, General Burnside had his head-quarters, and here he took his post during the battle, and thence, aided by a powerful glass, watched the progress of the fight, issued orders, and received reports. As the day advanced, and when the last desperate effort was made upon the Confederate position, General Burnside, who had remained all day at the Phillips House, went down to the Lacey House, and in the garden facing the city followed the progress of the fight. Externally calm, the leading player in that tremendous game was agitated by such intensity of feeling as no one can conceive, and paced the garden gloomy as night. "That crest," he exclaimed passionately, "must be carried to-night." When, however, the day was lost, and General Burnside, turning, walked off through the garden, and, mounting his horse, galloped back to head-quarters, what thoughts and feelings passed through his mind? No illusions could make him believe that a victory had been achieved.



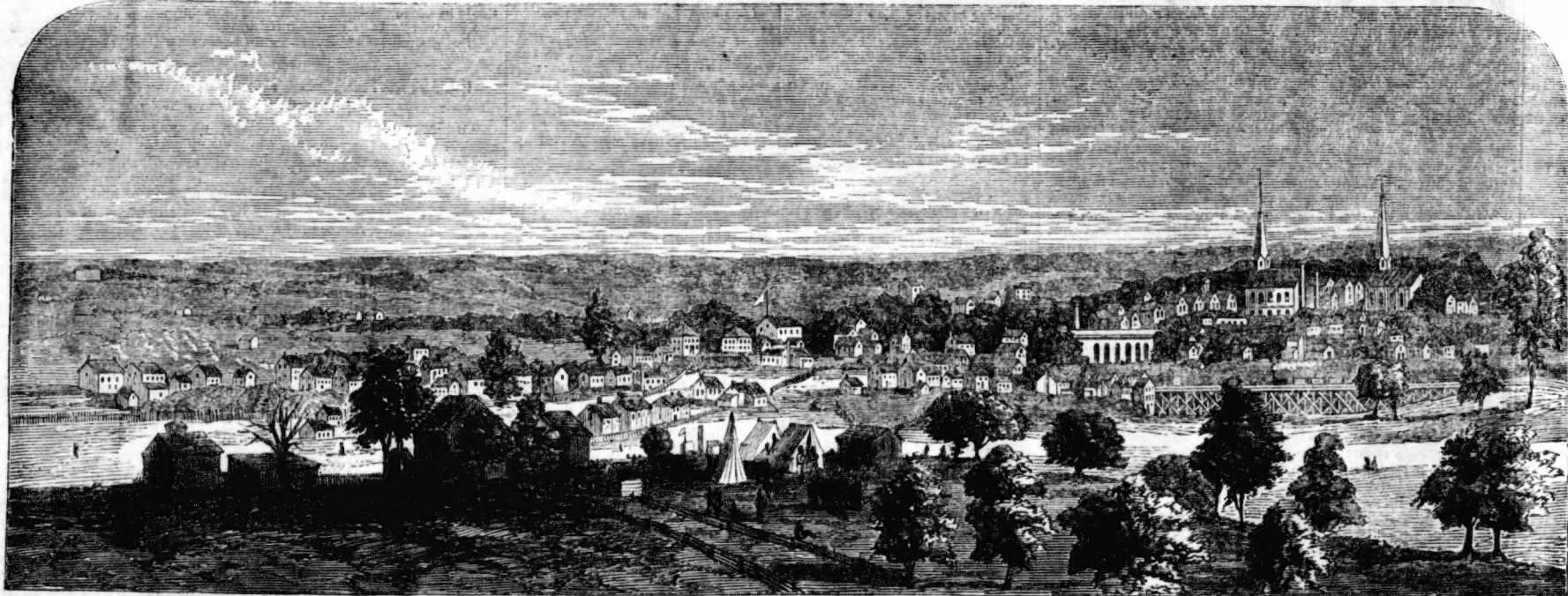
THE RIGHT REV. DR. COLENZO, BISHOP OF NATAL.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY THE LONDON STEREOSCOPIC COMPANY.)

DR. COLENZO, BISHOP OF NATAL.

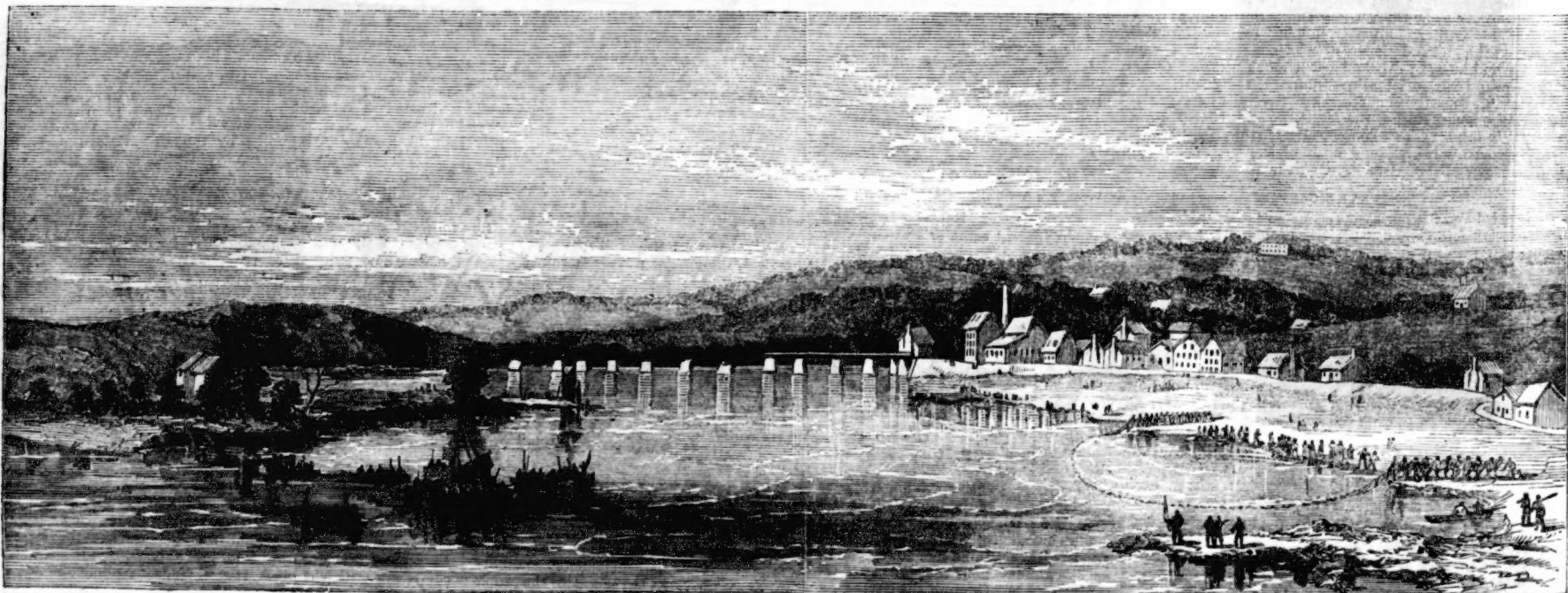
EVEN the famous "Essays and Reviews" have scarcely excited so much attention in what are called "religious circles" as the volume lately published, containing Bishop Colenso's opinions on the Pentateuch. Very much of what that book contains is neither new nor startling, a great many of its difficulties have been disposed of years ago, and, perhaps, few of its conclusions have not at one time or other occurred to thoughtful men who have either accepted them, as in nowise affecting their previous convictions, or rejected them upon the authority of a more careful examination of the record. The book has appeared, however, at a time of earnest religious controversy, the results of which must be to extend and to remove the landmarks of mere dogmatic theology; it is written by a Bishop who, although previously little known, except for his works upon mathematical subjects, held a highly responsible position in the Church, as being intimately and personally associated with missionary labour and enterprise. Whatever may be the result of the work to Dr. Colenso himself, it has by a concurrence of circumstances obtained a notoriety to which it could never have attained merely by its own merits or by any originality of thought which it displays. The Bishop himself had already gained a high reputation for his mathematical treatises, which have for some time been the text-books of the Universities, and, whatever may be the conclusions of the thousands who have read his last work, there can be no doubt of his religious character and his integrity of purpose.

The Right Rev. John William Colenso, D.D., was born at St. Austell, Cornwall, in 1814, his father being J. W. Colenso, Esq., of Lostwithiel, an officer of the Duchy of Cornwall, and his mother a daughter of Thomas Blackmore, Esq., of Devonport. Having been educated at the proprietary school at the last-named place, he entered St. John's College, Cambridge, where he graduated B.A. in 1836, attaining the position of second wrangler and Smith's prizeman. From 1838 to 1842 he fulfilled the office of Mathematical Master at Harrow, took his degree of M.A. in 1839, and in 1846 became Rector of Farnett St. Mary, in Norfolk, where he continued till 1853, when he was made a Doctor of Divinity and appointed to the diocese of Natal, originally part of the see of Cape Town.

The works of Dr. Colenso published during the past thirteen years are, in 1848 and 1849, miscellaneous examples in and a treatise on Algebra; in 1851, a treatise on Plane Trigonometry; in 1853, a work on Arithmetic, "The Communion Service, with Selections from the Writings of the Rev. F. D. Maurice," and "Village Sermons," in 1855, "Ten Weeks in Natal," and, in 1861, "A Translation of the Epistle to the Romans, commented on from a Missionary Point of View."



THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.—FREDERICKSBURG, VIRGINIA, THE SCENE OF THE RECENT BATTLE BETWEEN THE FEDERAL AND CONFEDERATE ARMIES.



FALMOUTH, VIRGINIA, THE HEAD-QUARTERS OF GENERAL BURNSIDE.



THE MUEZZIN, AT THE SUMMIT OF THE MOSQUE, SUMMONING THE FAITHFUL TO EVENING PRAYER.—(FROM A SKETCH BY C. YRIARTE.)

THE MUEZZIN.

THERE is no more strange and solemn sight than one of the old Morocco cities at the last hour of sunset. The fiery light shows blood-red and purple in the direction of the Desert, where it blends with a mass of sable clouds; the high, dark palm-trees stand out like gaunt but not ungraceful shadows in the still, hot air, which scarcely moves

their spreading leaves as they show against the fiery sky; the last beams of daylight show in bold relief the white terraces, and the domes of the mosques shine like burnished gold; while here and there, in the places of public resort, the groups of white haiks and crimson gaudourahs shine like flowers, and give some animation to the scene. It is at this hour that the cry of the Muezzin sounds its half-melancholy summons through the city—"La ilah illa Allah." At the sound all the people

prostrate themselves, and the cavalier dismounts to kneel in response to the sacred reminder.

Our Engraving represents the minaret of the mosque at Tetuan, a strange, straggling old Moroccan city running down the slope of a hill, and about equally distant from Tangier and the Mediterranean. At sunrise the Muezzin, who probably owes his dark skin to an admixture with the black race of Sudan, commences his devotions,



MAP OF THE SEAT OF WAR IN AMERICA.

and calls upon the faithful to celebrate the new-born day with prayer. At noon he performs his ablutions in the Grand Mosque (Djama), and at the first indication of sunset he summons the faithful to prostrate themselves in prayer, in whatever place they may be at the moment.

At the gates of the city and in the darkening streets the wayfarers, draped in dark burnouses, glide along like shadows as they hear the solemn cry which seems to mingle with and yet to be heard above the noise of the traffic. Soon the clear notes of the Muezzin alone ring through the still air; all other sounds are hushed in the stillness of a city at prayer.

BRITISH IRONSIDES AT LISBON.

OUR iron-clad ships now in condition for service have recently been exercised and tested in the fleet under the command of Rear-Admiral Smart. They were sent on a voyage to the Mediterranean, and in the course of it, after performing a variety of evolutions, visited

Lisbon, where their appearance created an immense sensation. Our illustration represents the squadron of ironclads running into Lisbon harbour.

By advices from that city we learn some details respecting the behaviour of the iron ships during their cruise between Lisbon and Gibraltar. The weather had been so bad outside that hardly any comparative trials took place except in wearing. All the ships are said to have behaved wonderfully well during the heavy weather they had gone through, and, in the emphatic language of an officer serving on board the *Revenge*, "have proved themselves fit to go anywhere." In comparison with the *Revenge* they were found to rise and fall with the sea very easily, and it was remarked that no seas were seen to break over them in the roughest part of the voyage. All four—the *Warrior*, *Black Prince*, *Resistance*, and *Defence*—had proved to be in possession of weatherly qualities beyond expectation, and requiring very little aftersail. The fleet returned to Lisbon on the 4th ult. As they were running in, with the wind fresh abeam,

under double-reefed topsails and topgallant sails, signal was made from the flag-ship to take the latter in, which was no sooner accomplished than a heavy squall struck the squadron. Topsails were lowered and mainsheets eased off. The *Warrior's* maintack carried away, and her mainyard went in the quarter. The *Revenge's* foretopmast gave way between the fidhole and the sheave, but was arrested there, and no further mischief was done. The Admiral appeared determined to test the ships in every possible way, and each ship is described as being admirably handled.

The squadron has since returned to Portsmouth, and again started on a cruise for further evolutions. All accounts describe the behaviour of the vessels as highly satisfactory.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN has decided that only thirty-nine of the 300 Indians condemned for murders in Minnesota shall be executed, though the pressure brought to bear upon him to lead him to order the butchery of the whole "batch" was very great.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1863.

THE PAST YEAR.

THERE is a kind of social, political, and historical stock-taking customary among journalists at the close of each year, which has at length become elevated into an observance. It is not without its uses and its profits, and not usually without its pleasures. After having viewed in detail the many successive topics of public interest or phases of popular feeling or taste, as they have been successively brought forward during the past twelve months, it is by no means an unpleasant task to recur for a brief space to the memory of each, uninfluenced by the partialities or prejudices of the hour which gave them birth.

The year 1862 was ushered into the world sadly enough. It was, so to speak, born into mourning. It has been a year of small happiness to Princes. The late King of Portugal has been gathered to his fathers; the King of Greece has been driven from his throne. The ex-King of Naples, already an exile, has suffered in that exile the additional degradation of being deserted by the wife whom no adversity, privation, or danger could banish from his side. His successor, the new King of Italy, has had his hands full enough in the repression of the brigandage of his foes and the scarcely less dangerous ardour of his friends. The affair of Aspromonte has added nothing to his laurels, and, perhaps, not increased his popularity. The King of Prussia has passed no pleasant time in his contrivances to evade the exigencies of his newly-fledged Constitution. Among all these troubles and difficulties, the Royal family history of our own country has been signalised only by the continued grief of our beloved Sovereign, and by the marriage of Princess Alice with Prince Louis of Hesse-Darmstadt. Even the International Exhibition, which may be alluded to as the greatest event of the year, failed to counteract the depression of metropolitan trade consequent upon the absence of all the customary Court assemblages and festivities.

The dismal American War, of which the end was so confidently predicted to be at hand within ninety-days of its commencement, still runs on its fearful course, marked only by increasing savagery and indecisive slaughter unparalleled in the world's history. The end appears at last impending, but that end, so far as the signs of the times can be trusted, appears only possible in the form of a popular revolution in the capital of the remaining United States. Its result upon our own manufacturing districts is yet unhappily only too vividly before us. But, while we lament the suffering in which that result is displayed, we cannot but feel proud to own that England has been true to herself in encountering the crisis with such a vast amount of charity as has sufficed to blunt the keenest pangs of poverty and to prove triumphantly to the world that she possesses in herself the power of reparation of the most serious injuries which the course of events may happen to bring about in the moment of her gravest misfortune.

We need do no more than record the occurrence which laid the heroic Garibaldi for many weary months suffering and crippled upon his pallet. We can but hope that this long and painfully-enforced quiescence has not been altogether useless, and that Garibaldi, yet living, has been tided over a period which he could scarcely have passed in full vigour and freedom without rashly venturing upon expeditions dangerous alike to his country, to the cause of freedom, and to his own fame.

In our social and commercial annals of the year there have been a few matters which may deserve a word. There have been the acrobat *mania* and the postage-stamp *mania*. In the one case popular folly, under the pretence of admiration of agility and courage, has substituted for the higher forms of entertainment, which used to set our brains to work thinking, others of which the sole object appears to be to cause our heads to "swim." In the other, the old and useful taste of the collector, to whose labours art and history owe so much, has been degraded to the gathering together of masses of profitless lumber, which, its brief purpose of fashion once served, will remain, if preserved, only as memorials of a fugitive folly.

We have had our panics too. There was the stolen Bank-paper panic, in which some of our contemporaries, who really ought to have known better, led the van of terror by predicting consequences awful alike to the national purse and credit. From our own adoption of the plain and obvious, in preference to the recondite and imaginative, we were led into the opposite course of predicting the speedy apprehension of the criminals and the annihilation of their fraudulent schemes, and, to the great good fortune of all honest folks, our prospective views proved correct in the end. Then came the garotting panic, which was neither so baseless nor so highly exaggerated as some would endeavour to prove; nor, on the other hand, quite so appallingly well-founded as the timid would have wished us to believe. Nothing less than a grand general confederacy of the criminal classes for purposes of robbery and violence appeared

at one time to be dreaded, while common sense whispered in vain that, in case of the apparent impossibility of such a league being once surmounted, its only result would be the sudden and complete extinction of all combined in it.

There have been one or two social scandals; for instance, the "Raindeer" wager, the result of which shows that a British officer may come out with ostentatiously clean hands from a stale "plant," in attempting which a common sharper would run the risk of being kicked out of a potherhouse parlour. But, on the other hand, poor Mr. Digby Seymour is made a public scapegoat upon a mere accusation of having committed acts which everybody knows to be both ordinary and harmless. The "Raindeer" wagerer walks off with his "Johnson" under his arm, and absolutions from his club and his Commander in his hands, and, for all we know, the money he has "won" in his pocket, while the unfortunate barrister is "cut" by his brethren, bullied by the journals, and repressed in his profession because he has offered to work out a debt, and has been spoken to by a Government agent before his appointment to a recorder-ship.

Altogether, this has not been a very delightful year to look back upon. Let us close the record of the past, and, accepting the present without discouragement, look forward in firm hope to the future.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE EARL OF DERRY is suffering from another severe attack of gout. THE MARRIAGE of Frances, Countess Waldegrave, and Mr. Chichester S. Fortescue, M.P., Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, is appointed to take place on Tuesday, the 20th.

THE RIGHT HON. CORNWALLIS, VISCOUNT HAWARDEN, has been chosen an Irish Representative Peer, in the room of the late Lord Dungannon.

THE MARRIAGE of Marshal Canrobert to Miss McDonnell, of Grove House, Windsor, is expected to take place early in the present year.

MR. WILLIAM BROWN, of Liverpool, is, it is said, about to be created a Baronet.

GARIBOLDI has now taken up his residence at Capri. Some accounts represent his health as being in a less satisfactory state than was generally believed.

LORD STAMFORD has been the highest winner during the past racing season, having netted £13,550; Mr. Merry has won £4760.

A DAUGHTER of the late G. P. R. James has, according to a New York paper, recently opened in that city a school for young ladies.

NAPOLEON I. once returned the following curt reply to a person who had offered to sell him a chateau:—"I have already more chateaux than I know what to do with, and don't want yours."

GOLD is found along the whole extent of Nova Scotia from Yarmouth to Cape Cansu, and in many places in the interior.

THE NEWS of the battle of Fredericksburg caused the Liverpool cotton-market on Monday to open at a fresh advance of $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.

THE NEW LAW on the press in Austria has received the sanction of the Emperor Francis Joseph, and is to be shortly promulgated.

THE POPULATION of Cuba, according to a Census recently made, is 1,396,530—viz., 793,484 whites and 603,046 coloured. Of the coloured population 225,843 are free, 370,553 are slaves, and 6650 are emancipated.

A CONFERENCE of the PROTECTING POWERS of GREECE will, it is asserted in Paris, be shortly held in London to settle the question of the cession of the Ionian Islands.

GENERAL SIR PHILIP BAINTERIDGE, K.C.B., died at St. Margaret's, near Titchfield, Hants, on the 20th ult., aged seventy-six.

THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT have determined upon transporting instead of shooting brigands in future, as it is believed this course will have a greater effect than the former.

SIR ARCHIBALD ALISON has delivered a lecture in Glasgow on penal servitude and transportation, in which he elaborately condemned the present system, and strongly recommended a return to transportation.

IN THE DUBLIN THEATRE, on Boxing Night, a great uproar was raised because, in a scene of the new pantomime in which a trophy of flags is displayed, the green flag of Erin was not placed above the union jack.

A PORTION of the PERMANENT BARRACKS at Aldershot have just been lighted with gas from extensive works erected by the Government on the banks of the Basingstoke Canal.

THE FINAL OFFICIAL INSPECTION of the Metropolitan Railway was made by Colonel Yolland on Tuesday, and it is expected the line will be opened for public traffic on the 10th inst.

THE PRUSSIAN GENERAL WILLISEN, who gave great umbrage to the Italian authorities in 1859, has been sent to Turin as Ambassador, greatly to the discontent of the Italians.

THE VALUE of the IMPORTS from Greece into England during the first three quarters of 1862 was £369,060 against £207,500 in 1861.

THE FIRST DISTRIBUTION of PRIZE-MONEY for the capture of Lucknow commenced at the office of the commissioners, Chelsea Hospital, yesterday, the 2nd, and will be continued on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays until completed.

THE LIFE GUARD, Tyne and London steamer, was totally lost, with all hands, off Flamborough Head, during the late gales. The number of lives lost, including passengers and crew, is stated to be fifty-seven.

CARDINAL MORLOT, Archbishop of Paris, who had been suffering from severe illness for several days, died on Monday morning.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT has dispatched quite a fleet of steamers in search of the Confederate steam-ship Alabama, whose ravages have done so much damage to the American marine.

THE POPE has sent a donation of £100 to the funds for the relief of the distress in Lancashire, and regrets that the state of the Pontifical treasury is an obstacle to his contributing to the extent which his heart desires. His Holiness has contributed a like sum for the unemployed operatives of France.

VIOLETS are in full bloom in the open air at Worthing, Sussex: a striking proof of the extraordinary mildness of the season.

THE FRENCH MINT is preparing some new copper money, on which the Emperor is represented surrounded by laurels. It is said that this design will be adopted on all the French coins, and on the postage-stamps also.

THE REAL VALUE of the IMPORTS FROM FRANCE, from Jan. 1. to Sept. 30, 1862, was £14,925,458, against £12,801,955 in the corresponding period of the preceding year.

MOME, RISTORI has been performing at Naples. During the carnival, beginning on the 25th ult., there were to be forty representations, in thirty-two of which the distinguished actress would take a part. Ten of these, new to Naples, were written or translated expressly for her.

THE ARCHBISHOP of CAMBRAI, in a Christmas address to his clergy, sings a song of triumph over the defeat of Garibaldi at Aspromonte, and represents Colonel Pallavicini, whose men shot him down, as a manifest instrument of Providence for the protection of the Pope.

FOUR POLES have been arrested in Paris, at the instance of the Russian Government, on a charge of being concerned in a treasonable conspiracy.

THE QUANTITY of SPIRITS on which duty was paid for home consumption during the three quarters of the year ending Sept. 30 was 13,756,421 gallons.

DEERFOOT, the Indian runner, was last week beaten in a six-mile race by Mills, the champion runner of England, who has himself been since defeated in a five-mile race with another pedestrian, to whom, however, he gave a start of 350 yards.

THE APPEAL of MR. JAMES BISHOP against the judgment of the Court of Assize at Naples has, after a careful hearing in the Court of Cassation, been rejected and the sentence confirmed.

THE ARCHBISHOPS and BISHOPS of the CHURCH of ENGLAND, with the exception of his Grace of Hereford, have addressed a memorial to the directors of the various railways connected with the metropolis urging them to discontinue running excursion-trains on Sundays.

THE BUILDING for the OTTOMAN EXHIBITION at CONSTANTINOPLE is making rapid progress; it is now being roofed in with glass, and the interior arrangements and allotments of space are being pushed on with great vigour.

THE CUSTOMS RECEIPTS in FRANCE show an increase of 25,139,000*fr.* during the first eleven months of 1862, as compared with the corresponding period of 1861.

GENERAL BAYARD, who was killed in the battle of Fredericksburg, was to have been married on the 18th to a daughter of Colonel Bowman, of West Point. The match had already been postponed twice on account of the exigencies of the service.

M. INGRES is ENGAGED to DRAW, for the "Life of Julius Cæsar" by Napoleon III., a head of Cæsar based upon all existing authorities. This plan of compiling a portrait from various sources is not quite novel, and is certainly very absurd. Some years ago the same sort of trick was practised against Shakespeare.

THE EX-KING of NAPLES is carrying on a complicated lawsuit about a property sold some centuries ago by the Parni to family, then masters of Posenza, to the ancestor of the Marquis Pallavicini; and, as a correspondent at Rome remarks, his Majesty, seeing that all men are equal before the law, may expect to be ruined, like his neighbours.

BRITISH TRADE WITH NAPLES IS GREATLY ON THE INCREASE, and it is has been going steadily on since the expulsion of the Bourbons, as will be seen from the following figures:—In 1859 there were entered in the port of Naples 176 British ships, of 50,000 tons gross tonnage; in 1860, 218 ships, of 70,000 tons gross tonnage; in 1861, 238 ships, of 80,000 tons gross tonnage; and in 1862, 277 ships, of 120,000 tons gross tonnage.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

To a thoroughly appreciative spirit there is scarcely any better fun than reading the notices of the Christmas entertainments which appear in the various journals after Boxing Night. The whole staff of the paper has been made use of. Leader-writers, heavy book-reviewers, limping liners, and grave law-reporters have been pressed into the service, and all have felt it necessary to be remarkably sprightly and facetious in their productions. Out of the entire farrago of rubbish you can select the regular critic's notice at once—it is clear, terse, and to the point; but the others have not the smallest power of condensation: they tell the whole story of the pantomime at full length—"this was followed," "then we find," and "to him then enters"—taking up an enormous space, and driving the sub-editor nearly mad to find room for all. And, as this is to many of them the only occasion of the year on which they have a chance of original composition, they give free rein to their fancy and produce some noble results. This year they have been specially good. The gentleman who wrote the notice of the Princess Theatre for the *Times* wished to express that the audience were bored by the first piece, and were anxious for the commencement of the pantomime, so he says:—

It was like riding slowly by the side of an elderly gentleman, for whom one feels bound to show respect and to wait, with a foxhunt and the hounds in full cry in view—like still hook before sparkling champagne—like an ordinary visit to a theatre compared with one on Boxing Night; in short, like anything that is tame and dull and decorous, as contrasted with the free, the effervescent, and the rollicking.

Nice! isn't it? And so is this:—

In inaugurating his management of this house last evening, Mr. Frank Matthews did not think it necessary to adhere to the time-honoured pantomime, but so far conformed to the genius of the hour as to rely upon spectacle and burlesque, and to invoke the aid of the spirit world.

And so is the noble pathos of the gentleman who indites the notice of the Haymarket, and who, writing of "the greatest writers and most renowned poets," gives, as examples, Shakspeare and Knowles, Byron and Talfourd.

You know all about this genial Christmas season; how, according to Mr. Dickens, the jolly giant goes about scattering incense from his torch, and how all on whom it falls are at once imbued with charity and brotherly love! There must have been a good deal of incense sprinkled into Printing-house-square, and the gentleman (or lady?) who wrote the review of "Lady Morgan's Memoirs" must have had a double allowance of it. How genially commences his opening sentence—

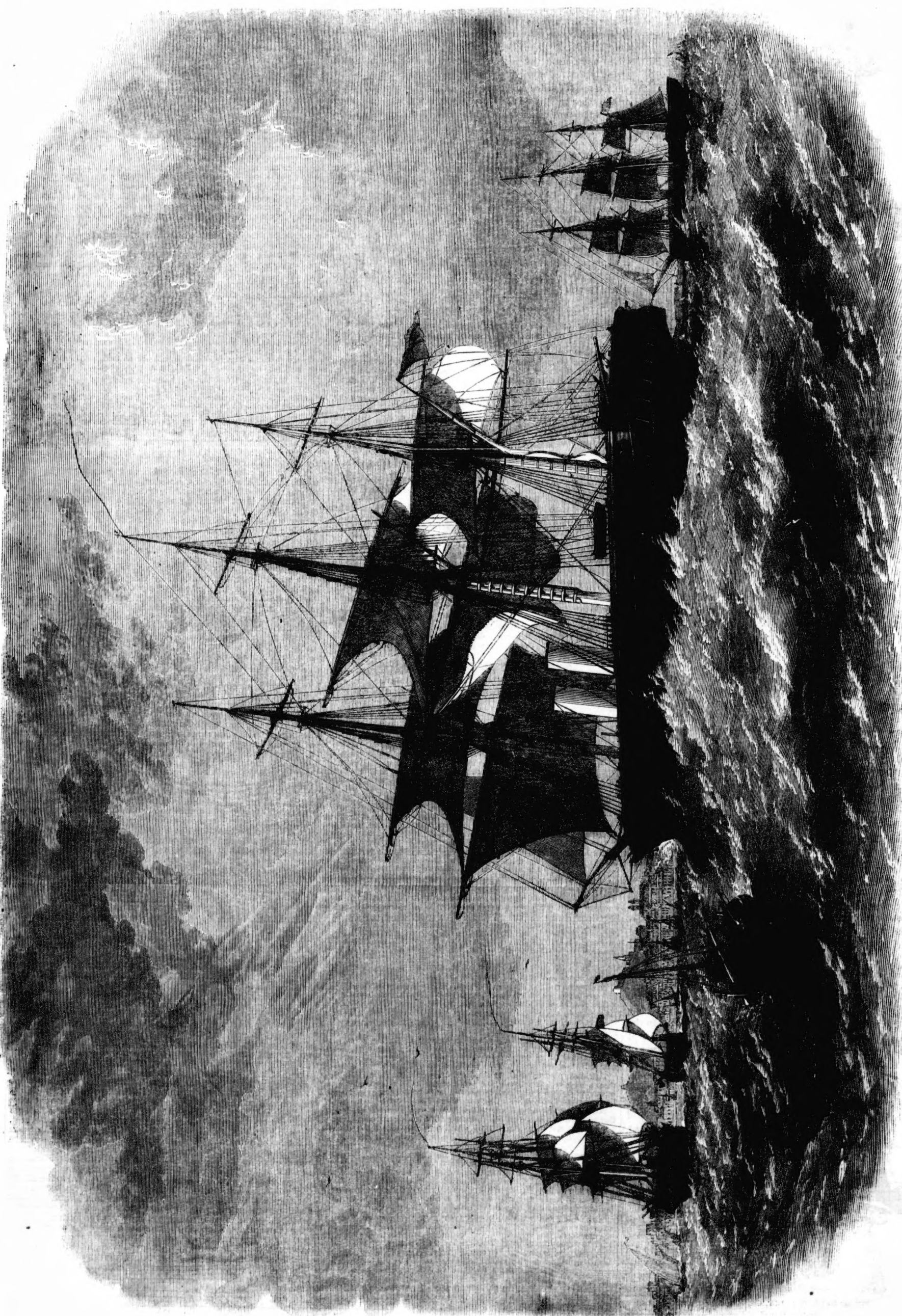
The most ancient, the most frivolous, and the most incessant little woman ever known in this country died about four years ago, and left a sackful of her sermons to Mr. Hepworth Dixon, to be published by him.

How refined are his epithets. Lady Morgan was "excessively old and dreadfully knowing;" she was "a mass of affectation and falsehood;" she had "amazing effrontery and self-confidence," and was made up of "tinsel and paint." What a kindly critic, what a genial, large-hearted gentleman, so imbued with the charitable spirit of the season, who rakes among the bones and besmitches the name of a poor old lady, four years dead and long since forgotten, but who probably has left some relative behind her who will glow with pleasure at this manner of recalling her to memory!

That delightful journal, the *Saturday Review*, seems in its last few numbers to be recovering its ancient briskness and to renew the memory of its early days, when it was the organ of a few brilliant men fresh at their work, and not the receptacle of heterogeneous stuff from some hundred and sixty mediocrities, who go about boasting that they are "Saturday Reviewers." The real men who established its success never mentioned the goddess to whom they were ministering priests, but the *hominuelli* who have perhaps adorned the pages of the *Review* with a couple of columns of twaddle, are perpetually dragging themselves upward by clinging to the fringe of Mr. Cooke's editorial garment. Another disadvantage of this enormous staff is that its members are, in most instances, personally unknown to each other, and are frequently, in the blindest ignorance, morally treading on each others' toes. For instance, in last week's number there is a tremendous scuffling for Mr. Dion Boucicault, in the course of which the lash is smartly applied to a writer in the *Times* who is a regular and recognised contributor to the *Saturday Review*. By-the-way, the writer of the Boucicault article missed one point. He might have pointed out a charming instance of Mr. Boucicault's utilitarianism. On the back of all his stall-tickets, which are simply limp scraps of very common paper, is printed an advertisement of the *Family Herald*, with a quotation-puff from the *Saturday Review*.

Long expected, come at last! Mr. Wingrove Cooke—erst the graphic correspondent of the *Times* in China, and unsuccessful candidate for Marylebone at the last election—has been made Inclosure Commissioner, with a salary of £1500 a year. Mr. Wingrove Cooke succeeds the late Mr. Mules. When Mr. Beamish resigned, in 1860, Mr. Ridley, the member for Newcastle-upon-Tyne, was appointed; and many a hungry mouth on the Liberal side of the House closed in despair and anger when the intelligence came out that a literary man was to have this appointment; for these commissionerships are much coveted by Parliamentary adventurers, and have come to be deemed the right of Members of Parliament, and to confer them upon mere literary men is considered a dangerous innovation.

In all the biographies of the Right Honourable Benjamin Disraeli we are told that he first appeared before the public as a political writer in the columns of the *Representative*, an out-and-out Tory daily newspaper, started by the late Mr. John Murray. The author of "Disraeli; a Literary and Political Biography," says confidently that it was so, and gives us extracts from Disraeli's letters in that paper. The statement is indorsed by the writer of Disraeli's life in Knight's "Biographical Dictionary;" it has been copied into scores of less authoritative sketches, and has come to be believed as an incontrovertible fact. But now there comes to us a positive contradiction. And the impugner of the statement is Mr. James Hannay, a gentleman who would hardly make the contradiction without authority. "We know," says Mr. Hannay in the *Edinburgh Courier*, "what we are talking about, as responsible men of letters, when we say that Mr. Disraeli never edited the *Representative*, never contributed a line to it." This is Mr. Hannay's assertion, and, as will be seen, it is so positive, and given with such an air of authority, as to leave no doubt that Mr. Hannay has the highest sanction for what he asserts; and I should unhesitatingly believe it were it not for one little fact connected with Mr. Disraeli's life which has come to my knowledge. It is affirmed by all his biographers that Disraeli some time was in an attorney's office. But, more than this, I have conversed with a gentleman who asserts that he saw him there, perched on a stool, diligently following his vocation as a lawyer's clerk. But, on the other hand, I have heard from authority quite as good, that when the Conservative leader at a dinner-party was recognised by a former associate of his in said attorney's office, he (Disraeli) quietly denied that he was ever in such a position. What, then, is the truth? Sir Walter Scott once, when asked whether he was the author of the Waverley novels, replied promptly that he was not; and he defended the denial upon the ground that no man had a right to attempt to take off his mask. Perhaps Disraeli holds to the same principle. Mr. Hannay has no doubt, authority for what he asserts; and it is equally certain that he has confidence in his authority; but one would like to know what that authority is before one gives implicit credence to the assertion.



DEFENCE.

OUR FLEET OF IRONSIDES RUNNING INTO LISBON.

RESISTANCE.

BLACK PRINCE.



MONSTER PUDDING FOR THE LANCASHIRE OPERATIVES.

THE late Christmas festival must necessarily have been a dull one in many a household in the manufacturing districts of England, for, notwithstanding the liberal contributions placed at the disposal of the relief committees, and the laudable desire of those bodies to make all feel as comfortable as possible at the great English festival season, in not a few households the contrast between the state of things now and in former years must have been painfully strong. But though all cannot have had those enjoyments which are universally associated with Christmas, the efforts made by the British people generally to mitigate the sufferings of their fellow-citizens gave at least a right to John Bull to "enjoy a merry Christmas," as our facetious contemporary *Punch* represented him as preparing to do; and the parties who supplied the monster plum-pudding portrayed in our engraving certainly earned their individual share of pudding after furnishing that handsome contribution to the Christmas fare of Lancashire. The persons who gave this characteristic and appropriate donation are the members of the United Cooks' Pension Society, who purchased the materials and superintended the making of the monster pudding in question. A difficulty, however, arose as to the cooking of the proposed gift, but this was got over by the authorities of Marylebone Union lending one of their large boilers. The dimensions of the mould were 3ft. 2in. in depth, 3ft. 3in. over top, 2ft. 9in. in bottom, 10ft. 2in. in circumference in top, and 8ft. 4in. in circumference at bottom. The ingredients were 180lb. of currants, 130lb. of raisins, 210lb. of flour, 130lb. of suet, 80lb. of peel, 80lb. of sugar, 1040 eggs, 8 gallons of ale, 4lb. mixed spice, 1lb. of ground ginger—gross weight about 900lb. The pudding, from unavoidable circumstances, not having been ready in time for Christmas, was presented to the unemployed Lancashire operatives on New Year's Day, and, we doubt not, was a welcome aid in furnishing forth the dinner fare of numerous families on that day.

THE CHRISTMAS PARCELS.

To those who have received Christmas parcels—not those fresh-looking huge country hampers—but baskets, bundles, and boxes which have been packed only for a short journey, and have conveyed the substantial recognitions of suburban friends, it may sometimes have occurred that on the eve of the great national holiday many thousands of such amicable tokens must be borne hither and thither through London streets, be delivered to hundreds of expecting or non-expecting individuals, that many of them must be sent to wrong addresses, be left waiting for claimants in dingy booking-offices, where they are continually a stumbling-block to unwary porters, and must generally be involved in inextricable confusion and dismay.



MONSTER CHRISTMAS PUDDING FOR THE DISTRESSED LANCASHIRE OPERATIVES.

A visit to the central office of the London Parcels Delivery Company, in Rolls-building, Fetter-lane, might at first tend to confirm this impression, but there is little doubt that the careful observer would discover, to his wonder, how small a number of mistakes occur, even without making allowance for incorrect addresses, or for addresses which have been almost obliterated before reaching the receiving-house at which they were booked for delivery.

Rolls-buildings is in itself a strange place, standing in the midst of transitional bricks and mortar, incidental to the erection of the new law-offices about Fetter-lane; as a street, it is muddy, and the great yard where such of the company's carts as are not in use lie waiting for their turn of duty, looks like a piece of building-land which is too bad an investment to invite speculation. The office of the company, however, or rather the one great roofed building which resembles a small railway station, is a scene of uproar, bustle, and activity. For two days and nights the men who are superintending the destiny of the parcels at the great horseshoe-shaped counter, have had little sleep and have not been home to bed; and now, late on Christmas Eve, or rather at two o'clock on Christmas morning, thirty vans and carts are waiting to receive their consignments to various suburban and metropolitan houses. There must be a quick

to follow the example of the other great maritime Powers, and, like them, has commenced the development of an iron navy. In addition to ordering the construction of several armour-plated vessels in this country, it has determined to build such steamers in the naval dock-yards of Russia. Messrs. C. Mitchell and Co., the extensive ship-builders of Newcastle-on-Tyne, have been intrusted with all the arrangements necessary to convert the Government dockyard at St. Petersburg into an iron shipbuilding yard. Steam-engines, punching, shearing, and other machines of the most modern construction have been sent out from Manchester and London. A railway will traverse the dockyard and communicate with the workshops and building-ships. Steam travelling cranes will be erected over the vessels while in course of construction, thus performing the greatest amount of work by means of mechanical appliances. Messrs. C. Mitchell and Co.'s engineers are superintending the erection of the various constructions, which will very soon be in full operation. Messrs. Mitchell have also undertaken to build on the establishment some of the armour-plated war-steamer required for the Russian navy, and have already sent to St. Petersburg many hundreds of tons of iron for this purpose. The workmen to be employed in constructing these vessels will be chiefly Russians.

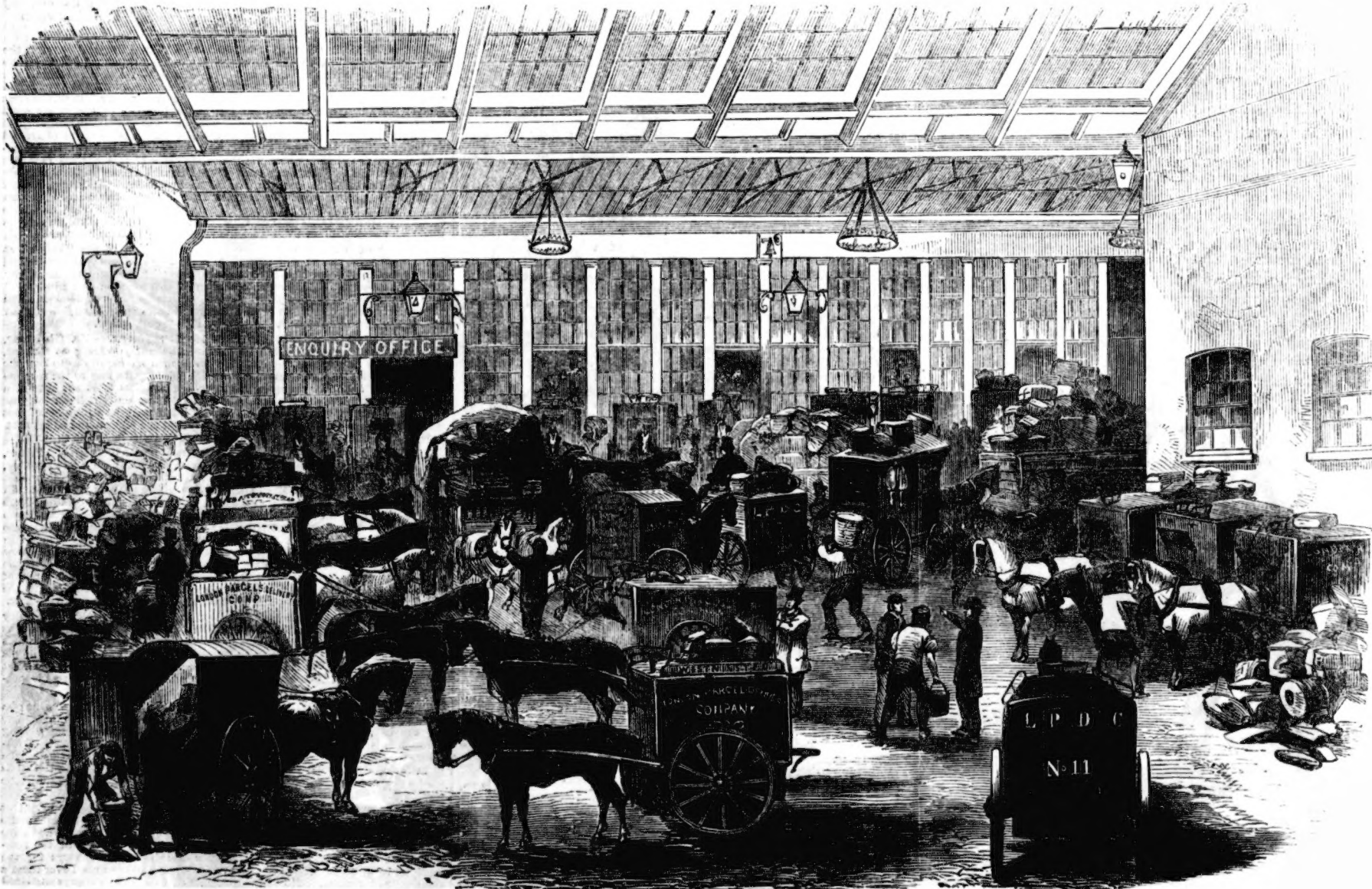
dispatch, or Christmas dinners may suffer; there has been a quick dispatch all the week, or what would have become of the 70,000 packages for which the carriers were responsible?

Up go boxes, baskets, bottles, hampers, and bundles, containing fish, flesh, fowl, and all sorts of more mysterious consignments, some of which may bring sorrow rather than pleasure to those for whom they are intended. A hundred and thirty horses and two hundred men are required for their distribution; and some of the directions are to "Mr. Smith, London," which is hopeless; or to "Mr. Brown, Clapham;" or "Mr. Jones, Kensington"—both of which will be ultimately discovered by the experienced carriers, who know every nook and corner of the modern Babylon.

Staring the visitor in the face is a bill offering a reward for the recovery of a brown-paper parcel containing a set of artificial teeth. But there is no time now for inquiries respecting them, since Mr. Hornby, the manager (who has been in the establishment ever since its commencement, a quarter of a century ago), has been up a day and a night already, and now stands amidst a Babel of bawling boys and clattering hoofs, directing the division of the parcels to their various districts. Soon fresh carts arrive to supply the place of those which have been loaded, a renewed clamour begins, and it will be broad daylight before the heaps upon that teeming counter dwindle down to unclaimed packages, and the last consignment clatters out of the yard and turns sharply into the busy thoroughfare of Fleet-street.

THE RUSSIAN NAVY.—The

Russian Government has resolved



CHRISTMAS EVE AT THE HEAD OFFICE OF THE LONDON PARCELS DELIVERY COMPANY.

MESSRS.
YATES AND POWER'S
ENTERTAINMENT.

MR. EDMUND YATES has been guilty of no act of unwarrantable rashness in appearing as a public entertainer. His family and previous associations were no less in his favour than his natural flow of good spirits, vivacity, and appreciation of humour. A long and intimate acquaintance with the public taste had already long since taught him the most difficult lesson of such an undertaking—namely, what to avoid. The next important step was the selection of his audiences, and in this he has acted wisely by aiming only at the gratification of persons of intelligence and good taste. A cargo of wigs and an interminable variety of costumes might have served his turn in a pecuniary sense, but failed in securing him the reputation necessary to support him in the position of a popular favourite with those whose good word is an absolute necessity to any London entertainment of the highest class. He has at once recognised the fact that the choice of the grade to which an audience at any public amusement shall belong rests entirely with the directors of the show. Any theatrical manager, for instance, might draw a house by announcing Hamlet, with the part of the Prince "by the infant prodigy, Master Smithers, aged only eleven years;" but, although a liberal distribution of orders might secure a numerous attendance of that class of female playgoers who usually carry their provisions to similar pastimes, the result would scarcely tend to the renown or ultimate profit of the speculation.

In his pleasant venture Mr. Yates finds an able and amusing coadjutor in Mr. Harold Power, also the son of a famous comedian. Mr. Power is a clever musician, and possesses the somewhat rare gift of imitative vocalism. The evening's amusement is interspersed with several new and characteristic ballads, chiefly turning upon the events of the day. Mr. Yates's clever analyses of a London evening party and a company of Britons at the seaside can scarcely fail to be attractive. The descriptions of society under these two popular phases are agreeably illustrated from a portfolio of ad-



MR. EDMUND YATES'S INVITATIONS TO EVENING PARTIES AND THE SEASIDE.

mirable sketches from the pencils of Mr. John Leech and Mr. Frith, R.A. The "auditorium," as Mr. Boucicault would call it, is admirably fitted up to represent a conservatory, and the decorations—as also the charming view of a seabeach in the second portion of the entertainment—are due to the talent of Mr. Beverley. The dialogue abounds with smart, telling descriptions of social types, which are brought forward each in a few sentences apposite enough to render them at once recognisable. The old worn-out "delineations of character" common to entertainments generally, but never met with in real life, are "so conspicuous by their absence" that at the close of the performance one feels inclined to give a great gasp of relief at not having encountered the uninteresting elderly person in the costume of last century, the vulgar ugly female with an umbrella, or that most ineffable of bores the party with a riding-whip, whose "animated" description of a foxhunt has hitherto been considered indispensable. That a company can be amused and depart in enjoyment unalloyed by the reminiscence of any one of these inflictions is a fact which tells no less for the advancing intelligence of the public than for the spirit and pleasantry of its entertainers.

ELECTIONEERING AT
ATHENS.

OUR Engraving represents one of the most striking of the events which were associated with the recent election in Athens during the popular excitement in favour of Prince Alfred. For some time the portraits of the Prince had been freely circulated through the various towns by the advocates of the English election, but on this particular occasion there appeared in the principal streets of Athens an open carriage drawn by four horses, and bearing a large picture of his Royal Highness, so disposed that the crowd could obtain an uninterrupted view of it. At the same time the carriage was escorted by a number of attendants bearing lighted torches, and, amidst enthusiastic shouting, the music of a powerful band played "God save the Queen."



ELECTIONEERING PROCESSION AT ATHENS.—MANIFESTATION IN FAVOUR OF PRINCE ALFRED.

THE BURLESQUES AND PANTOMIMES.

THE burlesque and pantomime are as closely associated with our national Christmas festivities as the roast beef and plum-pudding with which Englishmen celebrate their great annual holiday all over the world. Amongst a thousand changes in manners and customs—changes nowhere more obvious than in the character of our present popular amusements—the healthy British conservatism has always resisted the abolition of the Christmas fun which the pantomime, or its more refined relative the extravaganza, is supposed to represent. Above all, perhaps, the theatres at Christmas are tacitly acknowledged to belong to the children; and, under the protection of his thoroughly domestic character, Paterfamilias goes himself “to see the nonsense,” and becomes as much a child as his youngest boy, who still believes in the existence of a region peopled by innumerable Columbins. It is a happy thing for all of us when we can for an hour or two think the thoughts and even dream the innocence of childhood over again, and “seeing the nonsense” may not seldom help us to a fresh pleasure which shall not be destitute of good results.

The amusements provided by the various theatres for the present Christmas-tide are so effective that there is evidently no intention of superseding the good old rule which makes uproarious holiday mirth and innocent extravagance take the place for a short time of more serious and intellectual recreation. At all the houses the managements seem to have determined to cater well for the public appreciation, and for the most part the public respond heartily to their efforts. At

COVENT GARDEN

the story of “Beauty and the Beast” has been rendered more attractive by the closeness with which its dramatic accessories have been studied. To say that the burlesque is the work of Mr. H. J. Byron is only to say that it abounds with those extraordinary verbal dislocations and contortions which turn ordinary people giddy, and make them fear for the ultimate safety of the English language. The whole story is so ably maintained, however, and the stage effects are many of them so admirable, that this must be considered one of Mr. Byron's most successful productions. The ride of the Squire through the enchanted forest, and the banquet at the Beast's palace are provocative of roars of laughter, especially amongst the juvenile portion of the audience. Even these, however, are scarcely to be compared with the extraordinary scene in which Mr. Payne “convulses the house” by his marvellous pantomimic acting in the part of the Squire after he has become demented by the loss of his daughter. The transformation scene, the work of Mr. Calcutt, is a marvel of exquisite painting and of stage device; the approach of dawn in Sunshine's Fairy Dell being consummated by the descent of a female figure apparently unsupported, and typifying the first ray of light. The effect of the light upon rippling water in this scene elicited the admiration of the house on the first night, and ensured a warm reception for the painter when he was called upon the stage.

DRURY LANE

has wisely secured the aid of Mr. E. L. Blanchard, who, if not himself the original inventor of burlesque, must have been on very intimate terms with the real author, and have learned the secret of perpetual jocularity. There is always in Mr. Blanchard's burlesques a fulness of fun, combined with an easy facility of fancy, which keeps the audience in good humour with himself, themselves, and the actors. In “Goody Two-shoes; or, Harlequin and Cock Robin,” there is such a marvellous combination of nursery stories that we have no space to sketch the plot. The Haunt of the Wood Nymphs in the Enchanted Dell is so charming a scene, and introduces such a graceful ballet, that it must be taken as the principal effect of the piece. The pantomime is very funny, especially in the scene of the Agricultural Hall, with its dog, cat, and flower show.

THE HAYMARKET

has maintained its prestige for elegant and complete extravaganzas by producing a new version of “Rasselas,” from the pen of Mr. William Brough, who has for once deserted the purely classical subjects which he has previously turned to such admirable account to accept the difficulties of the classic, sham-Arabic verbosity of the great lexicographer. To make an amusing extravaganza out of the work of a man who, beside being the inveterate enemy of punning, wrote the story with a ponderous moral purpose, is certainly “no joke” to the author; and Mr. Brough has done wonders with a tale which few men can read, by turning it into an amusing, graceful, and piquant stage extravaganza, with Doctor Johnson himself avoiding the anachronism of a Greek chorus by means of a philosophic solo. The flying scene, which is represented in our Engraving, is one of the funniest in the piece, and gives an opportunity to Mr. Clark to exhibit his peculiar humour in the character of Aulane. The manner in which the piece is placed upon the stage is very effective, the scenery and dresses being equally admirable throughout, a qualification which adds to that completeness for which Mr. Brough's extravaganzas are already famous.

THE ADELPHI

rejoices in a grand burlesque and harlequinade by Mr. H. J. Byron, entitled “George de Barnwell; or, Harlequin Folly in the Realm of Fancy.” The old allegorical method of introduction consists of a conversation in the realms of Fancy, where Folly (even more than usually attractive as Miss Woolgar) suggests the story of George de Barnwell as the subject for Christmas merriment. Assisted by Fancy, Romance, and Claptrap (Miss A. Seaman, Miss Wright, and Miss Vining), she assumes the character of Millwood, and captivates George Barnwell (Mr. Toole). When we add that the awful tragic element is dissipated by the dénouement, which represents the whole to have been a dream of the unfortunate apprentice, from which he is roused by the wand of Folly, it will be evident that the machinery of the piece is somewhat vague, and that Mr. Byron's usually rapid rattle of puns lose much of their effect. The characters are admirably sustained, however, and the transformation scene—the Dryads' Home in Fairy's Elfin Forests—finitely introduces the sprightly harlequinade with which the performance concludes.

AT THE PRINCESS'

Mr. E. L. Blanchard has again chosen his subject well in a charming version of “Riquet with the Tuft,” to which is added “Harlequin and Mother Shipton,” the latter portion of the title introducing the beautiful scene of the Dropping Well of Knaresborough, and the abode of Old Mother Shipton by Moonlight, where an extraordinary dance of birch-brooms indicate the weird character of the locality. If Mr. Blanchard has exceeded himself in his admirable rendering of the fairy story as a Christmas burlesque, Mr. William Beverley has assuredly surpassed his usual excellence in the scenery. The Mushroom Marsh is one of the most extraordinary stage effects ever produced; while the burrowing of the mushrooms and the disclosure of the demons is not a little exciting. This, however, is far exceeded both by the transformation scene and the fairies' haunt amongst the water-lilies, both of which meet with an enthusiastic reception.

THE ST. JAMES'S

has availed itself of the indefatigable pen of Mr. H. J. Byron for a “serio-comic fairy fancy,” entitled “Golden Hair the Good,” a little half-fairy story, of very simple plot and construction, but containing several admirable points, and giving occasion for some very pretty scenery and dancing.

THE OLYMPIC

has this season secured one of the best and most successful extravaganzas which has been produced at the theatre for some years past. Mr. F. Burnand's “Robin Hood” is pretty well all that an extravaganza ought to be. Songs, duets, dances, fun, scenery, and stage arrangement work harmoniously; and indeed the singing met with so much success that several encores were demanded on the first night, and the audience appeared to be in thorough good humour. I will be well, perhaps, for Mr. Burnand to eschew in future the laborious word dislocation which is now too frequently recognised as wit, since we believe that he need not rely on the mere trick which tortures words by the help of a dictionary. There are specimens of extravagant punning in “Robin Hood,” but the work is altogether

so admirable that we sigh to think of the probability of the danger just hinted at.

THE STRAND,

of which Mr. H. J. Byron has long been the hope and the pride, knows too well where its true interest lies to spare him, even though he has been labouring for other and larger theatres. So that in “Ivanhoe according to the Spirit of the Times” we have one of that gentleman's best efforts, written for an audience who thoroughly appreciate him, and whom he appreciates. The whole story of “Ivanhoe” is rapidly and pointedly introduced, with all the laughable effects which its modern rendering ensure, and while puns, songs, and dances, together with some brilliant stage effects, carry it on to the delight of the audience, the characters are sustained by actors who themselves appear to take a keen interest in the fun.

AT THE WESTMINSTER,

a theatre which we must still call “Astley's” if we desire it to be recognised, Mr. Boucicault has completed the very pretty and light-some decorations, but has done little else. It is well, therefore, that the audience have something to look at during the performance of the “Siege of Lucknow,” and, although they might reasonably have anticipated either a new Christmas piece or none at all, these expectations are neither of them realised by the pantomime of “Lady-bird; or, Harlequin Lord Dundreary.” It may almost be said that the public can never have too much of Lord Dundreary, but it may at the same time be doubted whether he can safely be introduced into a pantomime. There are some very attractive scenes in the piece, however, and the action is well sustained throughout by an indefatigable company.

THE SURREY

supports to the full Mr. Shepherd's announcement at the opening of the season that no expense should be spared in the proper putting upon the stage of the forthcoming pieces. The scenery of the present pantomime, “Harlequin Mother Goose; or, Queen of Hearts,” is, without exception, the most gorgeous we have yet seen upon a transpontine—we had almost said upon a metropolitan—stage. The manager and scene-painters are nightly called upon the stage three times to bow their acknowledgments to an enthusiastic audience. The costumes are not one whit behind the scenery in splendour, and the pantomime itself is deservedly successful.

THE VICTORIA

has vastly improved under the management of Messrs. Frampton and Fenton, and the interior decorations have been carried out with undeniably good taste and complete success. With the freshness of appearance of the rich claret and gold ornamentation, and the handsome new drop scene, the Christmas entertainment was introduced under favourable circumstances, the prestige of which its own merits fully sustained. “The Adventures and Misadventures of Edward the Black Prince; or, Harlequin and the Magic Feathers,” contains some of the most brilliant scenes which have ever been produced at this theatre, while the ballet, the parody songs, and the remarkably clever stage effects seem to exceed even the expectations of the audience, who were enthusiastic in their praise.

We have in our present Number published Engravings from scenes in five of the principal burlesques, and shall publish some others in our next week's Impression.

THE PROPOSED NEW METROPOLITAN BRIDGES.—The precise sites of the proposed new metropolitan bridges across the Thames are defined by the plans and sections just deposited with both Houses of Parliament. They are five in number—namely, the Tower Bridge, St. Paul's Bridge, the Temple Bridge, New Chelsea and Battersea Bridge, and Wandsworth Bridge; the first three for foot-passengers only, and the other two for both carriages and horses. The Tower Bridge commences at Irongate-stairs, near the Tower, and terminates at Horselydown Old-stairs. The St. Paul's Bridge scheme comprises a bridge and approaches from St. Paul's Steam-boat-pier, and terminating in the Thames at a point 100 yards north of the junction of Love-lane with Bankside on the Surrey side; also a bridge commencing at the southern terminus of the foregoing and terminating at Bankside, at a point nearly opposite Love-lane, together with a third approach ending at Mazon's-stairs, Bankside. The Temple Bridge starts from the Thames embankment, 100 yards in a south-easterly direction from the Temple Steam-boat-pier, near Essex-street, and terminating 90 yards in a north-easterly direction from the river entrance to the draw-dock of Messrs. Dowson and Co., with the Commercial Railway on the Surrey side, with approaches from Duke-street and Old Barge House-stairs, Southwark. The Chelsea and Battersea Bridge, commencing in Cheyne-walk, opposite Oakley-street, Chelsea, will end at the Albert Canal, Battersea Park, near to the Albert Tavern; and the Wandsworth Bridge, beginning in the York-road, Wandsworth, 250ft. to the east of the Jew's-road, will terminate in King's-road, Fulham, at the junction of Land's-end-lane, opposite the Lord Palmerston Tavern. The time specified for the completion of the bridges is six years, and the toll to be taken is one halfpenny.

POSTAL CHANGES.—The Commissioners of the Treasury have issued a warrant directing:—1. That on a packet consisting of a printed newspaper, not exceeding 40z. in weight, posted in the United Kingdom and transmitted, via France, to any place in the Grecian Archipelago, or places in Turkey, Syria, or Egypt at which France maintains post-offices (the conveyance in the Mediterranean being by French packet-boat), there shall be charged a postage of 2d. 2. That on a packet consisting of printed papers other than printed newspapers, not exceeding 40z., transmitted in the same way, there shall be charged 4d. 3. That on a packet consisting of a printed newspaper not exceeding 40z., posted in Constantinople and transmitted by post thence, via France, to the United Kingdom, there shall be charged 2d. 4. That on every packet consisting of printed papers other than newspapers, not exceeding 40z., posted in Constantinople and transmitted in the same way, there shall be charged 4d. 5. That, as progressive rates, there shall be charged on every such packet, if exceeding 40z. and not exceeding 1lb., two rates of postage; if exceeding 1lb. and not exceeding 1lb., four rates; if exceeding 1lb. and not exceeding 1lb., six rates; if exceeding 1lb. and not exceeding 2lb., eight rates; and for every additional 1lb. of any such packet above the weight of 2lb. there shall be charged, taken, and paid two additional rates of postage, &c.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOT INSTITUTION.—A meeting of this institution was held on Thursday, when rewards amounting to £55 were voted to the crews of the institution's life-boats stationed at Rye, Cardigan, Porthcawl, Lytham, Whitby, Hauxley, and Thurso for saving, during the late fearful gales of wind, the following shipwrecked crews:—Ship James Browne, of Philadelphia, 18; smack Countess of Lisburne, of Aberystwyth, 3; schooner Champion, of Liverpool, 10; barque Brazil, of Liverpool, 13; steamer Royal Rose, of Whitby, 12; schooner Sisters, of Wick, 3. It may be added that the cost of the life-boats stationed at Porthcawl and Thurso was presented to the institution, respectively, by a benevolent lady, resident in Staffordshire, and by A. W. Jaffray, Esq., of St. Mildred's Court. Rewards amounting to £90 were also granted to the crews of the Tynemouth, Scarborough, Whitby, Plymouth, Carmarthen Bay, Holyhead, Southport, and Groomsport life-boats, for putting off with the view of saving life from different wrecks, in replies to signals of distress, but the vessels either succeeded in getting out of danger or had their crews saved by other means. The silver medal of the institution was also voted to Mr. Swarbrick, master of the steam-tug Wyne, of Fleetwood, and to Mr. Robert Gerard, pilot, in admiration of their noble conduct in rescuing, by means of the tug, under the most perilous circumstances, seventeen persons from the barque Pudyona, of Glason Dock, which had stranded during a heavy gale of wind and in a high sea in Morecombe Bay. This was reported to have been a most noble and daring service. A reward of £18 was also granted to the crews of two fishing-smacks, in appreciation of their gallant and persevering conduct in rescuing at great risk of life the crew of four men from the brigantine John and Edwin, of Whiteabe, which, during a heavy gale of wind and in a terrific sea, had sunk off that place on the 21st of December. An interesting report was read from the Assistant-Inspector of Life-boats (Captain David Robertson, R.N.), on his recent inspection of the life-boats of the society on the Irish coast. With one or two exceptions, he found the boats in excellent order. The wife of an old Scotch sailor had sent 2s. 6d. to the institution, as a token of her sympathy. The institution decided to place forthwith a new life-boat at Bude Haven, Cornwall, and to renovate completely the life-boat station. Payments amounting to £500 having been made on various life-boat establishments, the proceedings terminated.

DISCOVERY OF SECRETED TREASURE.—An Indian paper thus records a great recovery of secreted treasure at Lucknow, together with some promise of a still larger restoration of stolen goods to the rightful owners of them:—“The capture of a most magnificent lot of jewels, valued at upwards of thirteen lacs of rupees, was made on November 14, by a local official. Three of the diamonds alone are said to be worth ten lacs. The property, which is now in the safe keeping of the deputy commissioner, is supposed to have been taken out of the Kaisir Bagh during the mutiny—by whom it is not easy to say; but it was found in the possession of a common kahar, who had late y excited very strong suspicion by his movements and mode of living. It is said that the kahar, who glories in the name of “Badloo,” has sold a very large quantity of these valuables, but that a still larger quantity, together with an immense amount of money, remains to be recovered from him.”

APPROACHING ELECTIONS.

THE Whigs are playing their old but not very creditable game at Reigate. Mr. Arthur Wilkinson had got possession of the ground there, and there was every prospect of his beating his Conservative opponent, Mr. Stuart Wortley, easily. When, lo! a gentleman bearing the aristocratic name of Granville Leveson-Gower (pronounced by sweldom Lewson-Gaur), a member of the noble family of Granville, makes his appearance and divides the Liberal party. And if Wilkinson and Granville Leveson-Gower both go to the poll, Mr. Stuart Wortley will most likely be returned. Now this is really too bad. Mr. Wilkinson is in every way a suitable man. When he was in the House of Commons before he was generally recognised as an efficient and independent member, and, having got the ground, Mr. Leveson-Gower ought in honour to have stood aloof. But this is the way with the aristocratic Whigs. Earl Somers and Lord Monson have influence at Reigate, and though both these noblemen are Liberals, they would probably rather have a Conservative returned than a Liberal who does not belong to their clique. I trust that Mr. Wilkinson will not retire, but go boldly to the poll, and throw the responsibility of the return of a Conservative upon his aristocratic opponents.

Good Mr. Ball is about to retire from the representation of Cambridgeshire. He was elected first in 1852. The Cambridgeshire farmers were writhing under the infliction of free trade, which they still apprehended would ruin them. There was a meeting held to select a suitable candidate, when an adventurous farmer suggested that they should have a tenant-farmer, and named Mr. Ball. The idea took. Mr. Ball was invited to stand, and his consent having been obtained, his address was issued; and such was the enthusiasm evoked throughout the county, that the great families—the Rutlands and the Yorkes—to whom the movement was mere wormwood and gall, were obliged to give way, and allow Mr. Ball, the tenant-farmer, to be returned without opposition. In 1857 there was a contest, when Mr. Adeane, the Whig, put up, and found a seat. It was not, however, Mr. Ball that was ousted to make room for the Whig, but Lord George Manners. Mr. Ball, the tenant-farmer, was at the head of the poll. Never had the county families such a graver as this. The Rutlands and the Yorkes to be beaten upon their own ground by a tenant-farmer! And worse than all this, if possible, Mr. Ball is a Dissenter, and a preacher too. In 1859 the families had the wisdom to keep quiet. Mr. Ball made no great figure in the House. Accustomed to talk to large audiences from the platform and the pulpit, he spoke with ease and fluency, and now and then there came from him a glimmer of sound political philosophy, which proved that he was on some questions in advance of his party; but on politico-economics he never spoke but he showed that he was blind as a barn-owl in daylight. Still, he is a good, honest, sincere soul, and not a few will be sorry to miss his broad, hearty face and his well-known sonorous cheers; and so, farewell, Mr. Edward Ball, and a pleasant green old age to you.

Mr. Langton is about to retire from Oxford; but whether he means to accept the Hundreds and retire at once or wait till a dissolution shall liberate him does not appear. Next year will be the fifth of this Parliament, and in all probability, crisis or no crisis, we shall then have a general election. Sometimes Parliament runs on to the sixth year, but not often. From 1832 to 1859 there were seven dissolutions, which gives an average of four years. The Parliament, however, which was elected in 1841 lasted six years. It is generally believed that the present Parliament will not live longer than the end of the Session in 1864. It will then have had a life of five years and six Sessions. The law, however, is that it may last to the end of its seventh year, reckoning from the date of the writ of summons by which it was appointed to meet.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.—Mr. E. Ball, one of the members for this county, has issued an address to his constituents intimating his intention to resign his seat. Lord George Manners is the Conservative candidate for the vacant seat. The names of Mr. C. Townley, Major Fryer, and Mr. Young, Mayor of Wisbeach, have been mentioned as probable Liberal candidates.

REIGATE.—There is likely to be a keen contest for the vacant seat for this borough, two Liberal candidates—Mr. Wilkinson, formerly M.P. for Lambeth; and Mr. Leveson Gower—being in the field; while Mr. Stuart Wortley has started in the Conservative interest.

TOTNES.—Sir Henry Young, who had come forward as a second Whig candidate for Totnes, has retired; Mr. Alfred Seymour, at present M.P. for Exeter, who has secured the patronage of the Duke of Somerset, is left for the present in undisputed possession of the field on the Liberal side. A movement has been set on foot to induce Mr. Dent, the Conservative candidate at the late election, to again contest the borough.

NORTHAMPTON.—A Mr. Isaacs, a large employer of labour in the town, has issued an address announcing his intention of becoming a candidate for the representation of the borough on the next vacancy.

A NEW SUBSTITUTE FOR LINEN RIGGS.—Advices received from Philadelphia state that the fibre plant Hibiscos moscheutos is occupying the attention of the merchants at that port as a substitute for linen rigs and jute. This plant is indigenous to the Northern States, and grows in abundance in the swampy lands of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, &c. At a moderate calculation, and taking into account the probability of loss from unforeseen causes, three tons and a half of disintegrated fibre can be derived from one acre of ground. Two prominent paper-manufacturers of New York have estimated the fibre to be worth 100 dol. per ton to be used as a substitute for linen rigs in the manufacture of paper.

A NEW AMERICAN STATE.—A bill has passed the House of Representatives recognising the new State of West Virginia. The new commonwealth, which is to be erected from that portion of Virginia lying west of the Alleghany Mountains, will embrace forty-eight counties, of which McDowell, Mercer, Monroe, Greenland, and Pocahontas form the southern-eastern tier; and down to the southern lines of these counties, including all the islands in the Ohio River. It will contain about 24,000 square miles, and a population, according to the United States' census of 1850, numbering 350,000, of which only a little more than 12,700 are slaves. The bill gives the new State three members of Congress, and provides for the gradual emancipation of slavery, by declaring that all children born of slave parents within its limits after the 4th of March, 1868, shall be free from their birth, and that all slaves now within the State under ten years of age shall become free at the age of twenty-five; and further, that no slave shall be permitted to come into the State for permanent residence.

THE PARIS TOY FAIR.—The toy fair, which is held towards the end of each year, and particularly on New-Year's Day, along the boulevards, was formerly restricted to a few particular spots. In the fifteenth century it occupied the quay near the Palais de Justice and the Pont-au-Change; in the sixteenth, it was still held on the bridge, for leaden toy soldiers of the time of the League have been found in the Seine under its arches. Afterwards the toy men had their stalls at the Fair of St. Germain, and under the Restoration they took their stand, from the 15th of December to the 15th of January, on the Pont Neuf, on the platform now occupied by the statue of Henry IV. Before the Revolution, the neighbourhood of the Pont Neuf was a popular resort at the new year. Near the foot of the bridge on the Quai Conti, there was formerly a splendid shop, called the Petit-Dunkerque, which attracted all Paris, but the knick-knacks sold there were not meant for light purses. This establishment was founded in 1767 by one Grancher, a jeweller, from Dunkirk, for the sale of the more costly kinds of hardware and jewellery. In course of time his house became so famous that about New-Year's Day he was obliged to have sentinels at his door to preserve order among the crowd of customers, and no stranger came to Paris without visiting the Petit-Dunkerque. In 1781, when the Countess du Nord, wife of the future Emperor of Russia, Paul I., came to France, she did not fail to visit Grancher, and purchased from him, as presents for her friends at St. Petersburg, some dozens of a toy then in vogue, a small mill to be worn on a watch-chain. The establishment of Grancher, after holding its ground for many years, gradually lost its vogue, and at last disappeared entirely. As to the Pont Neuf, where shops of less pretending appearance attracted crowds under the Restoration, it was also abandoned in its turn, and the toy fair removed to the boulevards.

TAMPERING WITH THE BALLOT-BOX IN GREECE.—The Government, as a body, has almost entirely abstained from interference in the elections, as is best proved by several of its members having been left out; but so much the greater energy was displayed, especially by the minorities, to carry the election of their candidates by fair means or foul. We hear from many places about tampering with the ballot-boxes, which will of course form the subject of debate in the National Assembly. Notably, one rather ridiculous case is related from Sparta. The minority got hold of the ballot-boxes while they were on their way from the outlying districts to Sparta, and filled them with not less than 15,000 favourable votes; the majority, having heard of this, indulged in a similar process, so that in a district which has little more than 7000 or 8000 voters there are above 30,000 votes.

STATISTICS OF MURDER.—A recent statistical table of the comparative number of murders in the different countries of Europe shows that in England there are 4 in every million of inhabitants; in Belgium, 17; Sardinia, 20; France, 31; Austria, 36; Bavaria, 68; Lombardy, 48; Rome, 109; Sicily, 90; and in Naples, 200. In the Ypsolis valleys murder is almost unknown.

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